Gloria will not dance to JDV's Cha-cha

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Christians, Muslims cry for Fr. Popong

BY EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MALABANG, Lanao del Sur—To Christians and Muslims in this once sleepy town, they have lost a bridge in Father Popong and the pain has been 10 times heavier.

"His demise is really painful for us Muslims and Maranaws," Bai Connie Balindong, a school

CHRISTIANS/ A15

Bill goes shopping for bikinis

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil—But whom were they for?

Former US President Bill Clinton gave tourists visiting Rio's picturesque beaches

BILL/ A15

NAKU, HA! PARA KANINO YAN?

Son of MILF leader hunted for killing priest

BY EDWIN O. FERNANDEZ
PDI Mindanao Bureau

MALABANG, Lanao del Sur—Police yesterday launched a hunt for six gunmen, including the son of a former Moro Islamic Liberation Front commander, in the killing of Irish missionary Fr. Rufus Halley during a botched kidnap attempt in this town on Tuesday.

Insp. Randall-lyon Bueno, Malabang police chief, said witnesses had identified Akto Sumagayan Daing, 35-year-old son of MILF commander Saiirip Daing, as the one who shot Halley five times in the head and body.

"We're not saying yet that the MILF is directly involved but the suspects definitely have a direct link with the MILF commander," said Senior Supt. Akmad Omar, police commander of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu, however, denied the rebel group was involved in the killing.

SON/ A15

WHERE Irish missionary, Rufus Halley, fell along the Narciso Ramos Highway in Barangay Diamaro, Malabang, Lanao del Sur. The gunman shot him five times in the head and body. EDWIN FERNANDEZ/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

Rosebud exposes stink

'Cops sold shabu to jailed drug lords'

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

OPLAN ATHENA was supposed to be an anti-narcotics operation to penetrate a Hong Kong triad, but it turned into a drug trafficking operation run by some of the Philippines' top police officers with the help of the Binondo Central Bank, ex-narcotics undercover agent Mary Ong, alias Rosebud, claimed yesterday.

Testifying at a Senate hearing, Ong said the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) launched the "buy-bust" operation in 1998 to crack into the triad, one of Hong Kong's infamous secret organized-crime societies.

Ong, who said she posed as a buyer of illegal drugs for the operation in October that year, stressed that Athena had the blessings of then PAOCTF head Sen. Panfilo Lacson and was run by Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, Supt. John Campos, and a network of other police officers.

She said that around P24 billion of the estimated annual P96-million drug trade in the Philippines goes to the triad.

Ong said that she worked with Campos, her former partner and lover (***see story below***) in Oplan Athena. She said she and Campos went to Hong Kong to order deliveries of *shabu* or methamphetamine hydrochloride from the triad.

The ex-agent said she and Campos purchased 180 kilos of drugs in three weeks.

Ong was the only witness of the Intelligence Service of the Armed

ROSEBUD/ A16

OLD friends? Or, so it would seem when Mary Ong is asked to point out at the Senate the Kim Wong she claims to have dealings with the Hong Kong triad. JESS YUSON

Acop: She infiltrated us to ruin Ping, PNP

BY CHRISTINE HERRERA

ROSEBUD: Not only a double agent for a Chinese triad, but a "woman scorned," out for revenge.

Or so said Chief Supt. Reynaldo Acop, who, pricked by Rosebud's thorns, turned the tables yesterday on ex-undercover agent Mary Ong and tagged her as a "double agent" for a triad involved in drug trafficking and kidnap-for-ransom operations in the Philippines.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Acop said that Ong betrayed his group.

"We were had. I am so sorry to admit this but we were supposed to use her as an asset but in the end, we found out that she penetrated us to destroy us," he stressed.

At the same time, Acop acknowledged that the P7.5-million "Athena" project was financed by

ACOP/ A16

Corpus: Bust Narc groups to solve drug problem

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

HOW do you solve a problem like drug trafficking in the country?

According to military intelligence chief Col. Victor Corpus, the government should revamp the Philippine National Police Narcotics Group, the Narcotics Command in the National Bureau of Investigation, and the Customs Narcotics Group.

Corpus made the statement yesterday at the Senate hearing investigating Sen. Panfilo Lacson's alleged involvement in crimes including drug trafficking, in the course of explaining the extent of the drug problem in the country.

In a presentation he made, which, he said, formed part of the evidence against Lacson, Corpus announced that the illegal drug trade in the country generated P250-300 billion in 1998.

He said that of the illegal drugs that were brought into the country mainly from China, *shabu* (methamphetamine hydrochloride) made up 95 percent.

Corpus said this had drained $5 billion from the country's economy, or what Sen. Ralph Recto summed up in the hearing as tantamount to one percent of the gross domestic product.

Corpus culled his figures from the statement of witness Mary Ong alias Rosebud, who claims to have been hired by Lacson as an undercover agent to penetrate the Hong Kong Triad drug syndicate.

Ong said she posed as a buyer of drugs for the group formed by Lacson to penetrate the triad, but that they ended up being a conduit of the syndicate.

Corpus showed the senators a chart detailing the flow by air and

CORPUS/ A15

Who's Mary Ong?

BY FE B. ZAMORA

(Editor's Note: The following is a condensed version of the cover story that appeared in the Sunday Inquirer Magazine on May 20, 2001.)

"THEY say I am just a spurned lover, that what we have here is an *away mag-asawa* (domestic squabble)," Mary Ong says, pausing to puff on a Marlboro. "I am doing this for principle."

The lover, Police Supt. John Campos, was introduced to her by a common friend who happened to be her "handler." Mary, also known as Rosebud/Lily Cheung/Lily Wong/Baby Tsina/China Girl, was a civilian agent of the Hong Kong police. She was to be Campos' "asset." She was smitten.

Amid their cloak-and-dagger activities in Hong Kong, they fell in love. She is 10 years his senior.

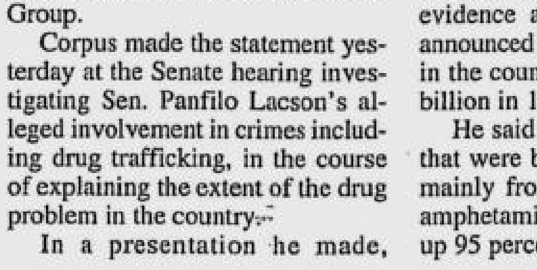
They were on the trail of drug syndicates plying the Hong Kong-Manila route.

They traveled together, infiltrated the Hong Kong Triad and lived to provide detailed reports to their bosses.

They worked together so well. Mary is smart, spunky and pretty. She speaks Fookien and Mandarin.

John was driven and trained to swear by the ideals of courage, integrity and loyalty at the Philippine Military Academy (Class '87).

WHO'S/ A16



LOVERS no more but for five years Mary Ong and then PNP Supt. John Campos made beautiful music as well as lucrative drug deals.

DEVNANI'S STORY

'Erap didn't listen to me, instead he gave me ₱3M'

BY HIS own admission, Danny Devnani took part in negotiations for the release of a brother of a businessman-friend of his who was allegedly kidnapped in 1996 by Kuratong Baleleng members working under Joseph Estrada's associate, Charlie "Atong" Ang.

In a 15-page affidavit he submitted yesterday to the Senate committees investigating the alleged criminal activities of Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, Devnani said the victim was ultimately released in exchange for the payment of P27 million.

He said he subsequently tried repeatedly to tell Estrada, who had then become President, what he knew. When he was finally granted an audience in Malacañang on July 4, 1999, he said, Estrada "did not want to listen."

"Instead he gave me a check, then he stood up. It was obvious to me that he did not want to hear from me what I know about the kidnapping(s) for ransom," Devnani said.

The check, he said, was for P3 million and dated July 2, 1999. He said it was cashed by his wife, Amelia Lim-Yu.

Devnani added that Estrada neither asked him to talk about the matter at a later time, nor directed him to bring the matter to "any respon-

ERAP/A16

TAMBAK ANG LABADA, 'WAG MUNA MAG CHA-CHA

Gloria won't dance the Cha-cha

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA AND VOLT CONTRERAS

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is opposed to amending the Constitution and hopes that Speaker Jose de Venecia will reconsider his position reviving the controversial proposal.

"She disapproves of the proposal and feels it will only distract Congress and the nation," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

Tiglao said the President had made known her opposition to Charter change, or Cha-cha, last month and saw no need to call on De Venecia to reiterate it.

"He has his own position but we are hoping Speaker De Venecia will reconsider it given the (state) of the economy and the country," Tiglao said.

De Venecia, secretary general of the ruling Lakas-NUCD party, revived the controversial Cha-cha issue on Tuesday, saying he will support a fresh move to amend the 1987 Constitution early next year.

The Speaker said Cha-cha should wait until around the first quarter of 2002 after the government would have completed the peace process with Moro and leftist rebels and crushed the Abu Sayyaf terrorists.

De Venecia also expressed preference for the creation of a non-partisan Constitutional Convention (Concon) as the better mode of amending the Charter, a position also espoused by Philippine Constitution Association (Philconsa) president Camilo Sabio.

House appropriations committee chair Rep. Rolando Andaya Jr., however, estimated that assembling a Concon and holding a subsequent plebiscite would cost the government at least P900 million.

"It will be hard to accommodate it in the budget, next year or the year after that," Andaya told the INQUIRER.

"For the Cha-cha proposal to be even entertained, there should be drastic improvements first in our political and economic situation," he added.

The House committee on constitutional amendments is launching consultations nationwide this year on amending the Constitution, according to panel chair Rep. Antonio Nachura.

"All members who attended our organizational meeting last Tuesday agreed that the Charter is ripe for change," said Nachura of Western Samar. "We now have to bring it before the people for consultation."

It was also last Tuesday before Philconsa that De Venecia announced he would support moves to amend the 14-year-old Charter.

Nachura said that if money was the problem, a "cheaper" alternative would be to convene the 12th Congress into a constituent assembly, instead of holding elections for a Concon.

The Cha-cha consultations, Nachura said, will start in the next few months, "so that by next year we could sit down to business."

He said among the amendments initially proposed by committee members were to the provisions governing foreign ownership of local businesses, a return to the two-party system, a unicameral Congress and longer terms for congressional and local officials.

MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

GMA to condole with Chinese envoy

BY JULIET LABOG-JAVELLANA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is scheduled to meet this week with Chinese Ambassador Wang Chungui to personally express her condolences over the loss of two Chinese engineers killed by Moro kidnappers in Sultan Kudarat last week.

The President is also expected to assure China that the military was doing its best to rescue another Chinese engineer still being held captive by the kidnappers.

The President is scheduled to visit China sometime in November for the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Shanghai and to make a state visit to Beijing.

Wang had wept openly at the memorial service for Zhang Zhongquiang and Xue Xing at the Funeraria Paz in Quezon City on Tuesday and branded the kidnappers as "inhuman and abominable."

He appealed to the Philippine government to secure the safe release of Zhang Zhongyi who was taken by the fleeing bandits.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the military had been ordered to pursue the kidnappers but to be careful about chance encounters.

The slain Chinese engineers, who were working in an irrigation project in Central Mindanao, were killed during a clash between the military and the Moro bandit group called Pentagon that they were pursuing.

Tiglao said the deadline for the military to capture the kidnappers was "as soon as possible."

Tiglao said the military estimated the Pentagon group to have around 60 to 70 members, but around 20 were killed during an encounter with soldiers.

"This means their armed capability has definitely been weakened," he said.

But in Cotabato City, the Pentagon kidnap group, which is holding the remaining Chinese engineer and a Davao City-based Chinese interpreter, threatened to harm their captives if the military does not stop its pursuit operations.

"If they (government troops) continue to track us down, we will be forced to kill our hostages," Abu Hamsa, who claims to be the leader of the group, said.

Despite the threat, Major Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said the military would continue to hunt the kidnappers.

"Our priority is to safely rescue the hostages," Ando said. *With a report from Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Estrada trial will take 7 months–Ani

BY B. RIVERA

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto said yesterday the plunder and perjury trials of former President Joseph Estrada would be over "in seven months" at the latest.

Desierto, one of the lead prosecutors in the deposed president's trials, said the cases should be resolved next year and "certainly before the elections in 2004."

Speaking at the Fernandina Forum in Greenhills yesterday, Desierto said the Sandiganbayan will hold hearings four times a week to speed up the cases against Estrada and others, including his son, Jinggoy, and his lawyer, Edward Serapio.

The Sandiganbayan's third division set the pretrial in the plunder case for Sept. 3 to 6 at 2:30 p.m., while the first division will hear the pre-trial in the perjury case on Oct. 29 to 31 at 8:30 a.m.

"Nothing is holding up the proceedings, not even the Supreme Court," Desierto said. "Because of the significance of the cases, the courts are being very quick about them."

He said Republic Act 6770, which calls for cases against ranking officials and involving big sums of money to be acted upon immediately, enabled the prosecutors to push for speedy trials against Estrada.

Estrada, his son and Serapio face charges of plunder in the case involving the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation Inc.

The former president also faces perjury charges for allegedly lying about his assets and liabilities.

Desierto said that despite the planned presentation of 54 witnesses by the prosecution, he is confident the cases would be "finished" by next year.

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1) September 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 2001 / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING (BASIC) - P6,500. Learn the practical & easy method of making 20 kinds of icing flowers, simple borders, scrolls & strings, cake designing, sugar molding, color flow and coloring technique; & exercises in writing, wedding cake assembly inclusive of ingredients. (Next schedule: October 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5)

2) September 18, 2001 - LEARN THE SUGAR-FREE CAKES AND BREADS - P4,000. Banana, Apple Almond, Chocolate, Apple Cakes & Carrot Cakes, All-Wheat Breads & Raisin Breads without sugar. (Next schedule: Oct. 16)

3) September 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 2001 / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - ADVANCED GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD (ADVANCED CAKE DECORATING) - P6,500. New method in making 2 kinds of gumpaste, flowers, objects, marzipan, quilting, swags & ribbons, edible ribbon insertion, finest string works. Lace pieces, and the chocolate fondant. (Next schedule: October 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12)

4) September 12, 2001 / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT DECORATION USING LACE MATS, ROLLING PIN, QUILTING, SWAGS RIBBONS - P3,000. (Next schedule: October 17)

5) September 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 2001 / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH RECIPE - P3,500 each. 1) Rose, Catlleya and Cymbidium 2) Sampaguita, Sunflower and Waling-waling 3) Poinsettia, Open Rose and Grapes 4) Magnolia, Gerbera and Lilies. (Next schedule: October 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19)

6) September 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 2001 / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - P8,500. 30 recipes consisting of the basic cakes, breads, pastries and cookies. Inclusive of ingredients. (Next schedule: October 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19)

7) September 19, 20, 21, 2001 / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - COLD PORCELAIN DOLL COURSE - P5,500. Make everlasting dolls using the latest technique in new Cold Porcelain Recipe. (Next schedule; October 17, 18 & 19)

8) September 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 2001 / 8:30 am - 5:00 pm - SPECIAL BAKING - P9,500. Learn to make 30 kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has different icing and decoration. (Next schedule: October 22, 23, 24, 25 & 26)

9) September 4, 2001 - CHINESE COOKING I - P3,500. Steamed Fish (6 mins. on microwave), Steamed Pork with Spinach, Bao Bing (egg rolls, fresh or fried), Oriental Steak, Fish Soup with Tofu, Sauteed Kangkong. Free ingredients.

10) September 11, 2001 - CHINESE COOKING II - P3,500. Vicky's Banquet (steamed vegetables, crab meat, ham, mushrooms), Palo Tim (duck in pressure cooker), Stuffed Steam Pork, 8 Treasures Rice Pudding, Fried Sweet Dumplings, Chicken Wings (cold or hot). Free ingredients.

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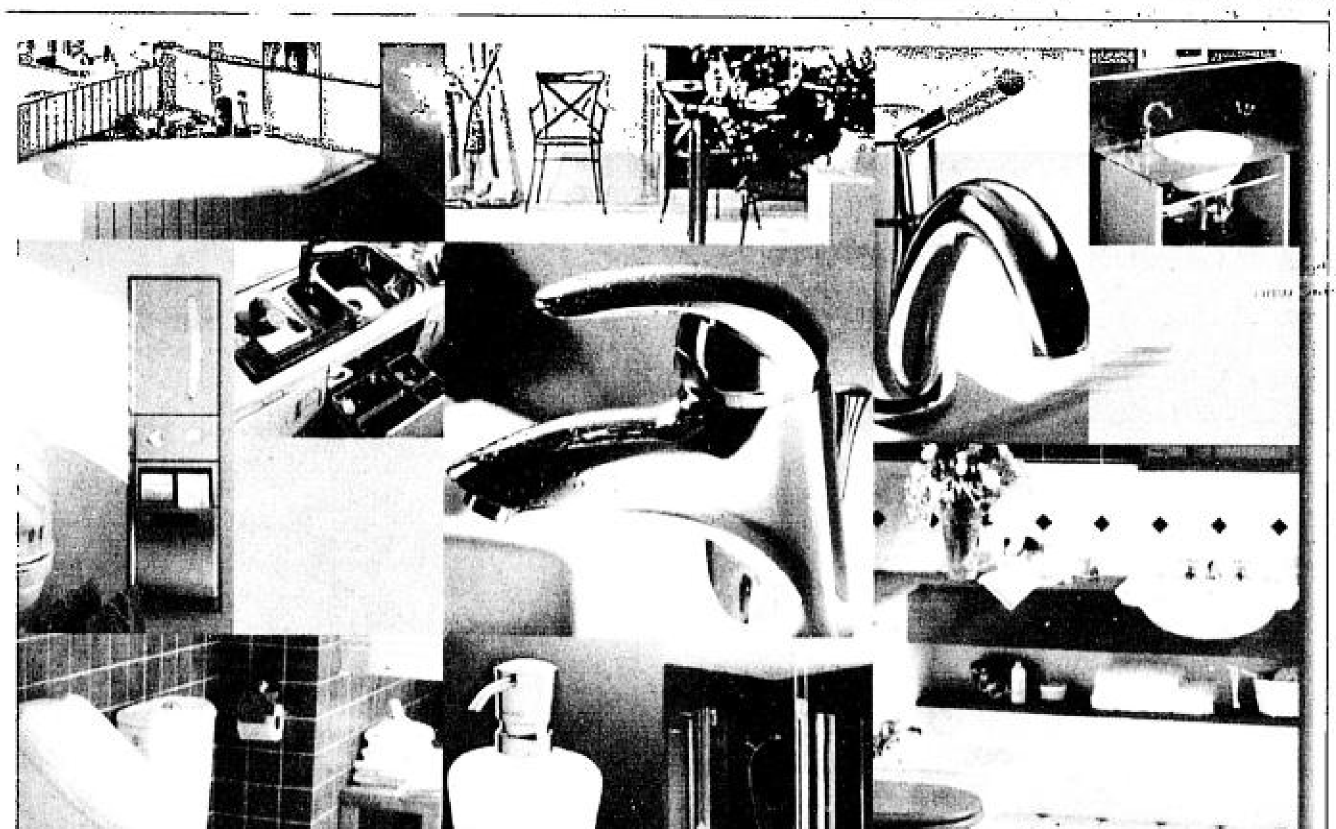
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We were tricked–Tancangco

By Gerald G. Lacuarta
and Martin P. Marfil

IN THE LATEST eruption of the state of war in the Commission on Elections, Commissioner Luz Tancangco yesterday said she and other commissioners were "tricked" by Comelec chair Alfredo Benipayo into approving the proclamation of the 13 winning senators in the May 14 elections without verifying figures in the tally.

Tancangco's claim that the voters' list had been padded by more than 500,000 votes and that 30,000 votes had not been deducted from the final tally for Sen. Ralph Recto could affect the standings of the 12th and 13th placers—Recto and Gregorio Honasan.

Malacañang has described as "serious" the bickering among the Comelec commissioners but is helpless to do anything as the agency is independent.

"The only way for the President to step in would be if more people are appointed to the Comelec. That is the only time that the President in a way interferes in the Comelec. But the commissioners have fixed terms," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said at a press briefing yesterday.

Borra

Tancangco said Resolution 01-006 of the National Board of Canvassers, penned by Commissioner Rex Borra, was passed on July 20 even without the en banc being able to check the national total against the provincial and city breakdowns.

"By 5 p.m. of July 20, Chair Benipayo was already editing the draft resolution without regard to the time I requested in order to verify the national total with the provincial breakdowns," Tancangco said.

At about 6 p.m., Tancangco said Benipayo had already signed the transmittal letter of the NBC resolution to Senate President Aquilino Pimentel.

"Under such circumstances, the members of the NBC were practically forced into signing the resolution," she said.

Tancangco said the lawyers among the Comelec commissioners, whom she did not name, were now studying the possibility of filing administrative charges against those who signed Resolution 01-006 and the senior staff involved in the canvassing.

Those who signed the resolution were Benipayo and Commissioners Borra and Florentino Tuason.

Staff involved

The senior staff involved in the canvassing were executive director Mamasapundd Aguam, directors Pio Jose Joson and Estrella de Mesa—all members of the canvassing supervisory committee—and Zenaida Soriano, head of reception committee; Gideon de Guzman of tabulation; Ester Villaflor Roxas of encoding; and Fe Campos of auditing.

Benipayo yesterday admitted that the number of voters as stated in the Comelec's final Senate canvass report of 37,142,294 was overstated, and that the 30,000 supposedly ordered by the NBC to be deducted from Recto's total was "still there."

But he said the "correct" number of total registered voters was 36,491,794 or 619,172 less than the figure stated in the canvass report but he said the error was due to "pure inadvertence" by the working groups in the canvassing which failed to verify the data.

"The attention of our people was focused on the accuracy of votes obtained by each candidate," Benipayo said.

Ester Villaflor-Roxas, head of the encoding group during the canvassing, said the discrepancy of 619,172 was due to the inadvertent encoding of the number of voters in Abra as 1,133,284 instead of 113,284; the inclusion of 266,104 registered voters in Cebu City in the total for Cebu province; the inclusion of 384,396 registered voters in Zamboanga City in the total for Zamboanga del Sur; and the non-inclusion of 1,051,328 voters in the Caraga region.

"We have made the appropriate corrections and we will be coming up with an updated canvass report containing the corrected figures," Roxas said.

But Tancangco said the corrections that Roxas cited were themselves wrong.

Benipayo brushed aside Tancangco's allegations that there was "a conspiracy to conceal election fraud."

"I doesn't matter to me who wins or not. We should not be partisan," Benipayo said.

"All we ask for is fairness," he added. "She (Tancangco) goes out and spouts on her own theory of fraud even without verifying her claims."

Benipayo and Tancangco said they were ready to face a Senate investigation.

Loi's resolution

Sen. Loi Ejercito, has filed a resolution seeking an inquiry into the discrepancies which Tancangco claimed indicated *dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and shaving) operations in the May 14 elections.

Rufus Rodriguez, Ejercito's lawyer, has asked the NBC to reconvene and recall Resolution 01-006 whose legality he questioned since he claimed it was passed only by a minority of the en banc.

Tiglao noted that the only way to change the rankings of the senators would be through a lengthy process of going through the protest filed before the Senate Electoral Tribunal.

The rankings cannot be changed by the mere allegation of fraud by one commissioner.

"The problem here is that Tancangco is the only one protesting, six commissioners approved the canvassing and Tancangco was in that meeting," he said.

He said the commissioners would have to settle the matter among themselves.

"The Comelec is a constitutional body, they would have to resolve it first among themselves," Tiglao said.

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PNP deputy chief dies

By Andrea T. Echavez

POLICE Deputy Director General Romeo Peña succumbed yesterday to complications from lung cancer at the Manila Doctors Hospital. He was 55.

At the time of his death, the three-star general was deputy chief of the Philippine National Police directorate for operations.

Known as a no-nonsense officer, Peña rose through the ranks until he became a general in 1993.

In 1999, when PNP chief Roberto Lastimoso was forced to retire, Peña was among those considered to replace him.

Then deputy director general Panfilo Lacson, however, got the position.

"He was a good leader, intelligent and one who knew what he was doing," Supt. Julius Abañez said of Peña, his former boss.

Another aide, who was closest to Peña but who refused to be identified, described the late general as strict yet kind-hearted, and supportive of his subordinates who did their jobs with loyalty.

"When some of our colleagues got into trouble, he was the first one to defend them if he knew they were just doing their jobs," the aide said.

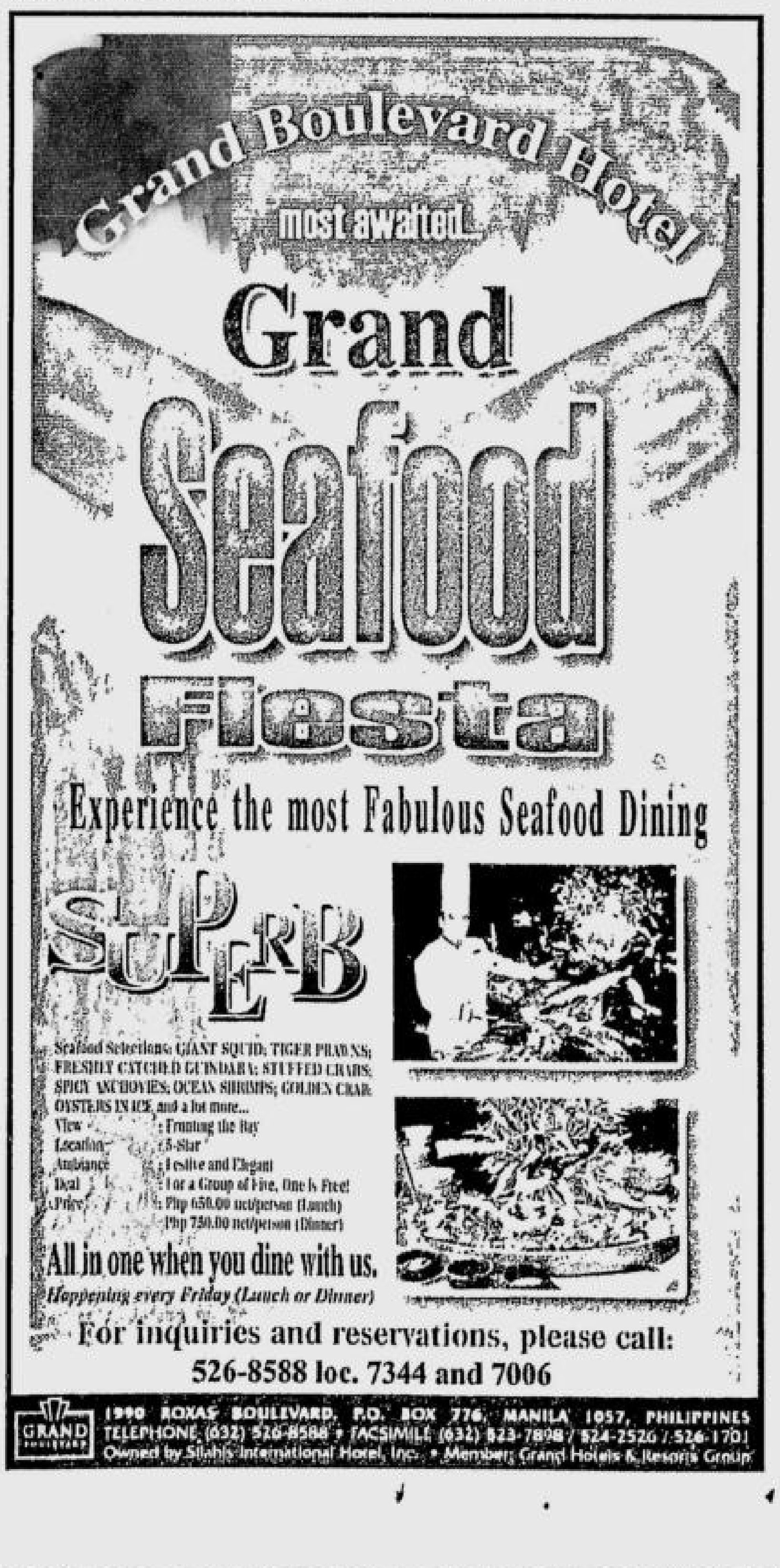
"Yet when he found out they were corrupt or at fault, he was the first to punish them," he added.

A Bachelor of Arts graduate from the Arellano University, Peña never stopped studying.

He had at least three master's degrees and some doctorate units. He also received over 30 certificates from various police-related seminars and workshops abroad, including a money-laundering seminar at Cambridge University.

"He wanted to leave a legacy in the PNP. He wanted people to remember him as somebody who contributed to the betterment of the police force," his aide said of Peña.

During his stint as PNP director for investigation and detective management, Peña drafted the police visibility program and strongly pushed for a moral recovery program.



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 1170 Series of 2001

Globe, Smart may back down amid texters' revolt

By Irene R. Sino-Cruz
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Globe and Smart are open to compromise over the proposed reduction of free text message allocations in the wake of a nationwide revolt against the two telecommunications giants.

"There's always hope in the future," noted Rodolfo Salalima, Globe senior vice president for corporate and regulatory affairs, when asked if the company would reconsider its decision to cut the free text messages.

"The company is trying to be as open-minded as possible. We don't want to be perceived as bull-headed," said Smart Communications public affairs head Mon Isberto during a meeting with the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI).

Salalima said Globe is reconsidering the proposal of the National Telecommunications Commission to reduce Globe's free text messages to 100 instead of 50.

"We are considering that idea. We welcome any ideas (with regards to free text messages)," he said.

Salalima, however, refused to say categorically that the company would be making adjustments on the free text messages.

Smart, for its part, is willing to listen to the concerns of its subscribers.

Isberto said, there is a need to determine a viable course of action. "We are in the situation where we can no longer take action," he explained.

Isberto pointed out that the NTC is now in the process of defining the level and quality of service required from the cellular phone companies.

With this move by NTC, he said, cellular phone companies will have to invest more in their facilities to ensure they can meet the required level and quality of service.

"It is incumbent on us to be prudent and have a provision for that," he pointed out.

Smart, he said, has to balance one consideration with the other.

Salalima also denied the perceived collusion among cellular phone companies due to the simultaneous announcement of reduced text messages.

"There is no collusion or connivance. When you talk of criminal collusion, you talk of agreement among people to fix rates to the disadvantage of the public," he pointed out.

There are no rates involved, he said, because the adjustments are only for free text message allocation.

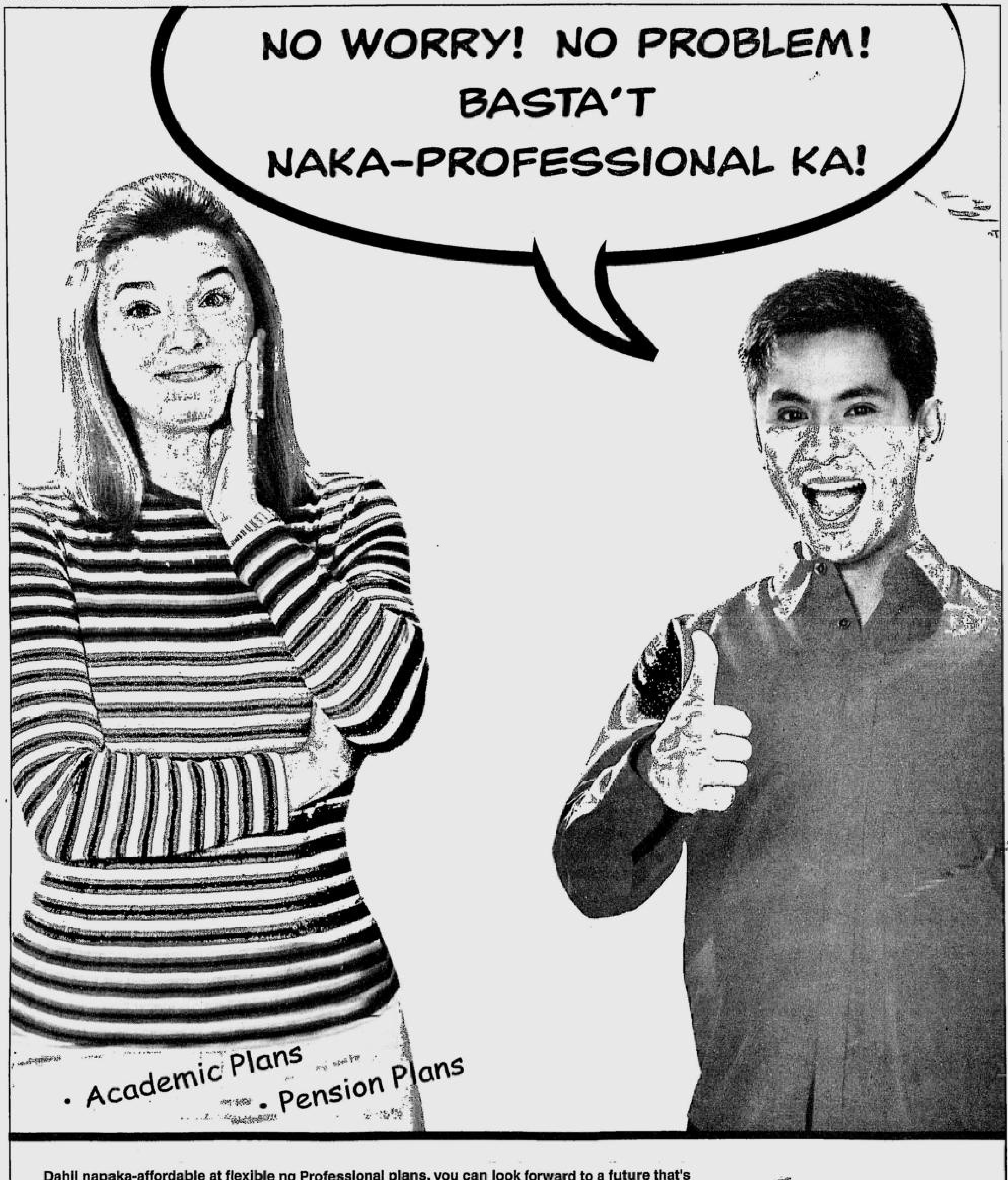
Although the decision to cut free text message allocation and the implementation schedule was announced on the same day, he said, this is not surprising since the cellular phone companies are closely watching each other.

"Timing is not an issue. We are never the same," he pointed out.

While Globe's free text allocation is given on a monthly base, their competitor's free text allocation is given per load, he said.

AD GROUP

Two organizations representing the industry, Primo and Prado, and the Philippine Daily Inquirer have banded together into one single entity for purposes of representation of the Advertising Board of the Philippines (Adboard), the self-regulatory body of the local advertising and marketing industry. Those who attended the recent meeting at the Adboard were: (standing, left to right): Remy Bicomong, Malaya marketing director; Bess Zamora, Today advertising manager; Elaine Go-Mapa, Belgosa Publishing Inc. associate publisher; Alan Tumlos, Freeman advertising manager; Cory Ramos, FCR Publications president; Vicky Centeno, Woman's Home Companion advertising manager; (seated, left to right): Lucien Dy Tioco, Philippine Star advertising director; Pepito Olarte, Philippine Daily Inquirer vice president for advertising; Josie Tan Magtoto, Mr&Ms Publishing Co. general manager and Nonna Nañagas, Image Dimensions Advertising president.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Pilots to appeal strike decision

By TJ Burgonio

OFFICIALS of the Airline Pilots Association of the Philippines (Alpap) said they will ask the Court of Appeals to reconsider its decision upholding a labor department ruling that their 1998 strike against Philippine Airlines was illegal.

Alpap president Capt. Sotico Lloren said the organization would press ahead with its legal battle against PAL, even if the case reached the Supreme Court.

He said Alpap will file a motion for reconsideration with the Court of Appeals. If this is denied, it will take the case to the high tribunal.

"We're not giving up. We're for justice. We have to fight it out," Lloren said in a phone interview.

The CA dismissed on Friday for lack of merit Alpap's petition to overturn the June 1999 resolution of then labor secretary Bienvenido Laguesma, who had ruled that the strike was illegal and the pilots had lost their jobs.

"Having participated in a prohibited activity—an illegal strike—PAL rightfully declared them (strikers) to have abandoned their work, the end result of which was the forfeiture of their employment status," it said.

In resolving the case, the court consolidated three main issues: whether the strike was illegal, whether the union received the return-to-work order, and whether the strikers had lost their employment status at PAL.

It ruled against Alpap on three issues, pointing out that Alpap failed to comply with the requirements of a valid strike under the Labor Code, deliberately refused to receive the return-to-work order, and staged a strike even after the labor secretary had assumed jurisdiction over the row.

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Assessment of witness—It is settled that the trial court's assessment of the credibility of witnesses is generally accorded great respect because it had the opportunity to hear them and to observe their demeanor and manner of testifying. The exception is when it overlooked or misapplied some facts, which could have affected the result of the case. Indeed, the proximate contact of the trial court with those who take the witness stand places it in a more competent position to discriminate between a true and false testimony. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, People v. Olivo, Jr., G.R. No. 130335, January 18, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, August 30, 2001
21st Week in Ordinary Time
1st Reading: 1 Thes 3:7-13
Gospel: Mt 24:42-51

Jesus said to his disciples, "Stay awake, then, for you do not know on what day your Lord will come. Just think about this: if the owner of the house knew that the thief would come by night around a certain hour, he would stay awake to prevent his house to be broken into. So be alert, for the Son of Man will come at the hour you least expect.

Imagine a capable servant whom his master has put in charge of his household to give them food at the proper time. Fortunate indeed is that servant whom his master will find at work when he comes. Truly, I say to you, his lord will entrust that one with everything he has.

Not so with the bad servant who thinks: My master is delayed. And he begins ill-treating his fellow servants while eating and drinking with drunkards. But his master will come on the day he does not know and at the hour he least expects. He will dismiss that servant and deal with him as with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Commentary:

Among the first Christians there was a vivid debate about the impending return of Christ. The beautiful prayer "Maranatha"—Come soon Lord—was an expression of this expectation. Many expected Jesus to return within their lifetime, but because of the delay in His coming many had grown skeptical. Today's reading was originally meant as a corrective to this careless attitude. Jesus states that the Son of Man will come at an unexpected hour and warns the people to stay awake and to be wise, since much is at stake. Wisdom is then defined as faithful service to the members of the household of God. People who conduct their lives in this way have nothing to fear. For them Jesus' coming will be an event of immense joy.

Heavenly Father, we easily lose perspective in life. Teach us the wisdom to live as your children in faithful service and care for one another.

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Palace still has to account for P318M

By Donna Cueto

MALACAÑANG, particularly the Office of the President, has unliquidated cash advances of P318.5 million, a portion of which even date back to pre-Marcos administrations, according to the latest report of the Commission on Audit.

The administration with the biggest liability was that of ousted President Joseph Estrada with P160,545,961.26.

The Ramos administration left P102,856,834.70 unliquidated three years after the end of its term.

Even the Marcos administration still has unliquidated cash advances of P42,856,431.77.

The Aquino administration still has to liquidate P11.3 million. There was even an unliquidated cash advance dating back to pre-Marcos years worth P1,010,373.22.

State auditor Arturo Besana, who conducted the audit on the Office of the President did not identify the officials who made the cash advances.

According to a former COA official, the Malacañang officials, even former presidents, who obtained the advances and failed to liquidate them could be criminally liable under Article 218 of the Revised Penal Code.

Delia Landicho, the chief accountant of Malacañang, said that her office has liquidated some of the cash advances, but did not say how much of the amount had already been liquidated.

According to the COA report, "cash advances totaling P318,635,963.43 remained unliquidated as of Dec. 31, 2000 in violation of Section 89 of Presidential Decree 1445, Executive Order No. 248 as amended, and COA Circular No. 97-002 dated Feb. 10, 1997."

Section 5.8 of COA Circular No. 97-002 provides that all cash advances should be "fully liquidated at the end of the year."

According to the report, a cash advance should be reported on and liquidated "as soon as the purpose for which it was given have been served pursuant to Section 89 of PD 1445."

Moreover, no additional cash advance would be allowed any official or employee unless a previous cash advance is first settled.

The Malacañang accounting office told COA that it had been "sending communications to remind accountable officials and employees to liquidate their cash advances on time."

"In fact, the cashier has been withholding the salaries of employees who do not respond to their request," the COA report said.

The COA said there was a special consideration when it came to cash advances for local and foreign travels of the President and operational expenses, including that of the Presidential Assistant for Regional Concerns (Pareco).

Former execs in tax credit scam dismissed

By Michael Lim Ubac

FIVE former finance officials, whose graft cases in connection with the tax certificates scam were dismissed by the Sandiganbayan last week, were found guilty of gross neglect of duty by the Ombudsman Administrative Adjudication Bureau.

Former finance undersecretary Antonio Belicena, former finance executive director Uldarico Andutan Jr., former deputy executive director Raul de Vera and tax specialists Rowena Malonzo and Brandy Marzan Sr. were meted the penalty of dismissal from government service, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said at a press conference yesterday.

But since Belicena, Andutan, De Vera and Marzan have already resigned from the finance department, Desierto ruled that their retirement benefits be forfeited and barred them from re-entering the government service.

The officials were accused of illegally issuing tax credits and duty drawbacks, which are refund repayments made by the government on duties and taxes paid by export enterprises.

Desierto said the five finance officials were liable for illegally authorizing the transfer of tax credit certificates (TCCs) worth P242 million by 13 garments and textile firms to Steel Asia Manufacturing Corp. (SAMC) from April 1997 to April 1998.

It was Belicena who approved the transfer of the TCCs while Andutan and De Vera recommended it, Desierto said.

Malonzo and Marzan prepared the memorandum supposedly containing the evaluations of the TCC transfers.

The transfers were deemed fraudulent because SAMC, a supplier of steel bars, is not a supplier of raw materials or a component supplier of the garment companies.

As the TCC transfer process entails a possible loss of government revenues, the officials should have been "more discerning and more stringent in its application," Desierto said.

Because of the "grave injury" suffered by the government in terms of lost revenue, the acts of the respondent officials "clearly constitute gross neglect of duty," said Desierto.

The Ombudsman also initiated criminal proceedings with the Sandiganbayan against the five officials in connection with the issuance of TCCs to 18 garment firms which, in turn, allegedly transferred the certificates in favor of Petron Corp.

The Ombudsman said the TCCs issued from 1993 to 1997 were illegal.

The accused claimed that there was nothing irregular in the TCC issuance, saying it had been done before.

The Sandiganbayan 4th division, however, dismissed the 62 graft cases filed by the Ombudsman's Office in connection with the P690-million Petron tax credit scam.

Desierto said the court junked the cases even if the accused did not file any motion to dismiss them.

The Ombudsman Special Prosecutor had already filed a motion for reconsideration with the anti-graft court.

Desierto branded the dismissal as unprecedented, saying "the order was issued *motu propio* (on its own accord) without any of the accused making such a motion to the court."

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Did he pay? Reghis to give answer today

By B. Rivera and R. Nazareno

DID he or did he not pay ransom?

Millionaire businessman Reghis Romero II will be the focus of today's hearing of the House committee on national defense that is investigating the alleged collusion between the military and the Abu Sayyaf bandit group and certain local government and military official's involvement in ransom payoffs.

"Whether or not Romero paid ransom in exchange for his freedom would be the central issue," said committee chair Rep. Prospero Pichay.

Two civilian witnesses will also testify today to confirm that Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar and Lamitan Mayor Inocente Ramos were inside the Dr. Jose Ma. Torres Memorial Foundation hospital when the Abu Sayyaf escaped from a military cordon on June 2, said Pichay.

The committee has also summoned Romero's girlfriend, Ma. Rhiza Santos Rodriguez.

"It is very suspicious that Akbar and Ramos were able to pierce the military cordon thrown around the area. And if they did get through the cordon, what were they doing there?" Pichay asked.

Akbar has begged off from attending today's hearing because he needs more time to prepare, said Pichay.

He will testify next week when the committee resumes its hearings.

As this developed, the Ombudsman's office said it has sent a three-man fact-finding team to Basilan to conduct its own investigation.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said the team had joined the representatives of the House committee on national defense, which is investigating the allegations of Fr. Cirilo Nacorda.

The team has submitted an "exhaustive report" that included statements from witnesses that the House investigators were not able to tap, Desierto said.

"We are actually investigating, but it was done quietly because we would be ineffective if we announced it before," Desierto said at the Ciudad Fernandina forum yesterday.

He said the information gathered could be "formalized as evidence" should the Ombudsman's office find enough grounds to conduct a formal investigation into bribery allegations against some Armed Forces officers.

With a report from Jonathan F. Ma and Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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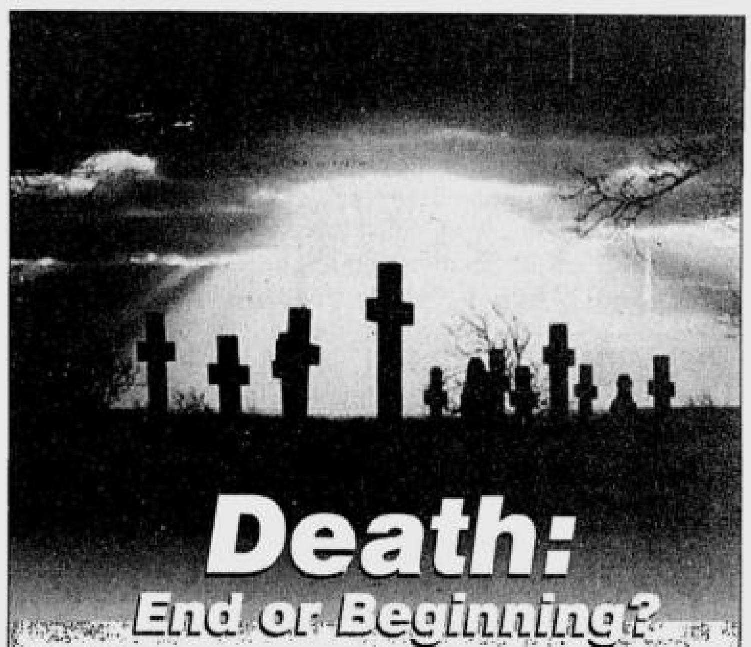

Death:
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But what does the Bible have to say about all this? Interestingly, the Bible likens death to being asleep and describes the dead as unconscious and knowing nothing.

"For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his fathers and his body decayed." (Acts 13:36)

"For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing." (Ecclesiastes 9:5)

"Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment" (Hebrews 9:27)

"If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait till my change come." (Job 14:14)

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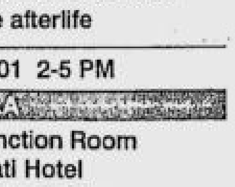

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EDITORIAL

SEN. Panfilo Lacson gave a winning performance at the media forum at the Manila Hotel last Monday, answering frank questions with matching candor. One of his answers, however, deserves a closer look as it reveals a mind-set, or at the very least an unspoken assumption, about the role of media in a democracy.

"If I have P37 billion," he said, "I won't have problems with the media. I would buy ABS-CBN. I would buy Channel 7. I would buy the INQUIRER."

Perhaps Senator Lacson was indulging a rather dry sense of humor. We certainly don't begrudge him that moment of levity, in what must be extremely trying circumstances for him. But his answer requires a serious response just the same.

In the first place, his problems are not a media creation. The accusations made by Col. Victor Corpus, chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, that he is involved in organized crime activities, including drug trafficking, money laundering and summary executions, were not fabricated for the media's consumption. Lacson must be willing to grant that Corpus did admit putting his own career, or worse, on the line. It would be preposterous, to use Sen. Robert Jaworski's favorite word, for Corpus to assume such stakes merely to sell a few more newspapers.

Again, the renewed attention to the Kuratong Baleleng cases is not the product of a pseudo-event, but the consequence of the decision of the Court of Appeals to issue a permanent injunction protecting Lacson from further government prosecution on the alleged rubout.

And, again, the coverage of the bugging devices issue stems, not from a media *moro-moro*, but from a textbook entrapment operation by the police, involving the resale of equipment that were not even supposed to exist, much less purchased.

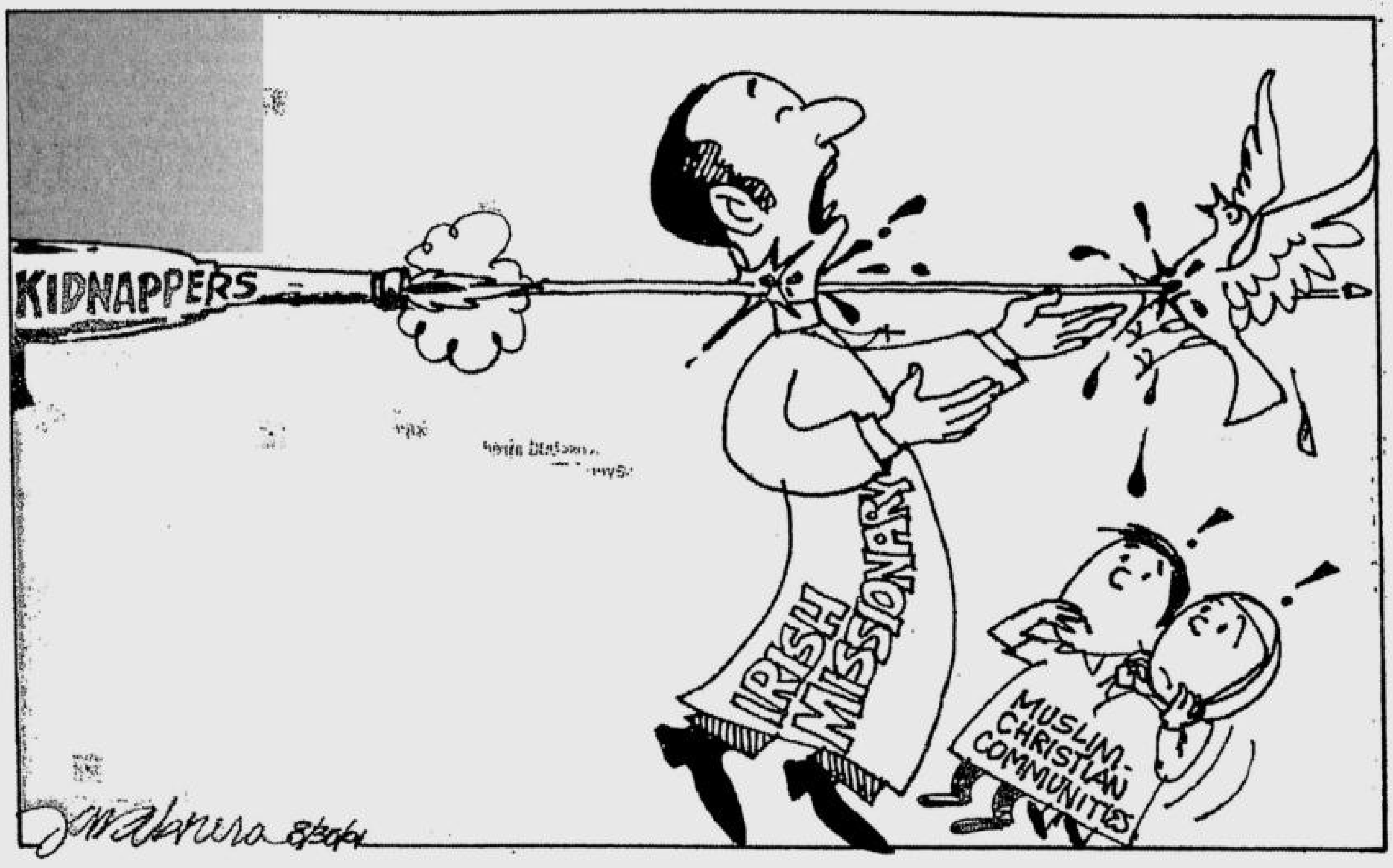
Secondly, his problems are not, taken together, simply an image problem. While it is true that his reputation and even that of his wife are at stake, it is specious to claim that all he is facing is negative publicity. He may or may not be the subject of a demolition job, which in the political context means a public relations offensive to cast one in a negative light. But his legal problems exist; they are for real. As human rights lawyer Arno Sanidad pointed out the other day, there is no need for the Senate to expel Lacson (itself a remote but real possibility) if the Supreme Court overturns the Court of Appeals ruling. The murder charges in the Kuratong Baleleng cases should be enough to place him in detention.

Thirdly, Lacson's problems will not be solved by buying media. All he has to do to recognize the falseness of the assumption behind his bravado about buying the country's top television stations and leading newspaper if he only had the money is look at what the "corporate genius" Mark Jimenez tried to do for their common patron Joseph Estrada. Jimenez may have wittingly bought The Manila Times, but he unwittingly put himself and Estrada in deeper trouble and under greater scrutiny. The buyout of the Times emboldened other serious newspapers and media outlets to work harder and more comprehensively on their coverage of the Estrada presidency.

Besides, owning a newspaper or a television station is not a guarantee against negative publicity—nor, and this point must be stressed, should it be. For instance, owning the largest TV network in the country has not prevented the Lopezes from coming under scrutiny for the controversial way their Rockwell development disposed of toxic waste. And that is as it should be. The press is a constitutionally privileged institution, and that is partly because it has a role to play in the checks-and-balances structure that our founding fathers imposed on our constitutional system.

Perhaps Lacson was merely, if subconsciously, aping his idol, the deposed and now deceased dictator Ferdinand Marcos. The first thing Marcos did upon declaring martial law was to shut down the media and jail the political opposition and the members of the free press. Throughout most of his reign, the mainstream media were under his control, thus preventing most of the negative stories from coming out.

That apparently is Lacson's idea of press paradise.



Solons have selfish motives in wanting cha-cha

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHAT is this? The country has so many problems and Congress has so many urgent things to do, but congressmen are wasting time on another proposed charter change. The Constitution is not perfect but we don't need to change it now. And there is no assurance that Congress, or a constitutional convention, will turn out a better one. From the quality and the moral dishonesty of the present members of Congress, chances are that they will come up with a worse one.

The real reasons congressmen want to change the Constitution are selfish ones. The changes they plan to make will be for their own benefit. For starters, they want to remove the provisions on term limits. They also want to transform the government into a parliamentary form so those ambitious politicians who have no chance of being elected president in a presidential form of government, can be prime minister in a parliamentary one. It would be easy even for a pipsqueak politician to be elected to parliament in his district and then buy the votes of his fellow MPs to be elected prime minister.

It is easy to determine who is the mastermind in this new cha-cha movement. Who is the congressman who has ambitions of becoming head of government but who has no chance of being elected president? Who is the congressman who is a genius in persuading his fellow congressmen to vote for him? That congressman is the prime mover behind this new cha-cha.

And this is the scariest part: It is possible for Erap to return triumphantly as prime minister. At the rate his trial is moving, it won't be finished by the time of the elections for parliament. So he can still run as a representative of San Juan and will most certainly win. With his still undiscovered billions in secret bank accounts, he can easily buy the votes of his fellow MPs to become the Philippines' first PM. That means Dante Tan, Atong Ang, Jaime Dichaves, Edward Serapio and other cronies will return as the new Cabinet members. Then the fear of Col. Victor Corpus of what we will become will come true.

* * *

Congressmen said they want to change the Constitution to improve the economy. That's a lot of bull! How can you improve the economy just by changing the Constitution when most of the world is affected by the economic meltdown? More likely, it would make our economy worse. We already face a P150-billion budget deficit this year. We can't afford another election for delegates to the constitutional convention, the expense for the convention itself and the holding of a plebiscite after that. Or to pay for a constituent assembly, because of which Congress won't be able to pass needed legislation.

Besides, a parliamentary form of government is not for us. A parliament is composed of parties and leaders with definite ideologies and platforms. But our representatives are political butterflies flitting from party to party. They don't even know what their present party stands for. After every election, they would mostly surely fly to the party in power because that is where the money will be. We won't be able to distinguish one party from another, or one opportunist from another opportunist.

No, we shouldn't change the Constitution now. It is still a good Constitution. With it, we were able to change several presidents and administrations peacefully. We have plenty of time to amend it later on.

* * *

Lawyer Gil A. Valera, who still calls himself a "deputy commissioner" of the Bureau of Customs despite a temporary restraining order from a judge, had a quick comment on our column last Tuesday, Aug. 28. The column was about his attempt to take over the position of Deputy Commissioner Emma Rosqueta, a 40-year career official at the bureau.

He asked that I publish his letter in toto, so here it is.

"Being a CPA-lawyer (Ateneo Class '83; 10th placer in the 1983 bar exams) and a licensed customs broker (PMI; 3rd placer in the 1993 licensure exams for customs brokers), plus having been a country manager of the largest sea-freight cargo consolidation and forwarding company, a Sealand subsidiary for 11 years from 1985 to 1995, I have dealt extensively with the Bureau of Customs and I know very well the various challenges confronting the bureau.

"This is why I offered my services to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo so that I can contribute in raising the moral standards of government in our society. I passed the rigid standards of the Presidential Appointees' Search Committee and when the call of duty finally came, I did not hesitate to assume my duties last Aug. 3, 2001.

"I believe that with the fresh ideas and innovative approaches I have been introducing to the Bureau, our employees will become prouder of much better accomplishments they will achieve under our stewardship. *Nag-uumpisa pa lang ako at alam ko na marami pa akong maitutulong kay* President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo *sa kanyang adhikain na gawin ang* Bureau of Customs as a showcase of a graft-free organization.

"I ask that you publish this letter in toto in fairness to our President and to the Search Committee who works very hard in selecting the right people for the right job."

Well, Mr. Varela, I think the committee did a lousy job in selecting you. Did you mean that customs is graft-ridden because of Ms Rosqueta so that she has to be kicked out to create a vacancy for you? How can you raise the moral standards of government when elbowing out somebody who spent the best years of her life working for the bureau without being touched by any scandal is downright immoral?

Sa ginawa mo, hindi ka nakatulong kay President Macapagal. Ipinahiya mo siya.

Parameters

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I SYMPATHIZE with the groups that are marching in the streets to block the initiative of some senators to end the Lacson hearing. Indeed, I sympathize with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who has expressed her desire to see the Senate continue to investigate him. I do not share Sen. Rodolfo Biazon's view that that is interfering in Senate affairs. A President is entitled to her opinion about what senators should do just as senators are entitled to their opinion about what the President should do.

I agree that the Lacson probe should continue. But **not** the way it has gone so far. That is where I part ways with those who loudly clamor for it. A Senate hearing to determine the culpability of a senator in criminal activity must aspire to a level of discourse that is beyond reproach. Indeed, a group of people seeking to pin down one of the highest officials of the land to heinous crimes must aspire to a level of thoroughness that precludes disbelief. That is what we have not seen so far. The senators, who argue that they have been given with very little to go on, have a point. Whatever their motives for complaining, they are not entirely being unreasonable there.

There must be parameters if the Lacson hearing is to continue. I personally would suggest the following:

First, the people accusing Sen. Panfilo Lacson of wrongdoing—Col. Victor Corpus et al.—should adopt a more transparent and forthright approach in prosecuting their case. It really does not help that Corpus and his witnesses keep saying, when asked by the senators to name names or give specific times and places, that they would do so at a later time, at the proper forum, or in closed-door sessions with the senators. That televised hearing **is** the proper forum, it is the place to reveal those things.

Frankly, I do not see what that request for an executive session was meant to achieve. At the very least, it's stupid. Corpus himself, as he explicitly said some weeks ago, went to the media and the public directly rather than through the usual bureaucratic route—indeed rather than reporting his findings to his immediate superiors in the AFP—because he trusted them more. To now keep those same media and public, whose sympathy Corpus and his associates have been earnestly soliciting, in the dark—well, the sudden coyness won't endear them to the public. Beyond this, one would think that the safety of the people they have in mind would be better guaranteed by public knowledge and attention rather than the lack of them.

All this cloak-and-dagger business does not confer on Corpus and company an aura of solidity; it confers on them a shroud of tenuousness. Corpus' two prime witnesses—Ador Mawanay and Danny Devnani—are by no means the most trustworthy of characters. The less direct and forthcoming they are, the more shadowy and insidious they become. If it's just a case of their word against Lacson—and so far they have not offered proof that would make it less so—it would not be easy to know whom to believe.

Second, we must set a timetable for Corpus et al. to provide reasonably solid evidence linking Lacson to at least **one** of the crimes they have accused him of. So far, they have accused him of pillage, money laundering, drug pushing, kidnapping, murder—crimes that individually merit the harshest condemnation and punishment—none of which they have substantiated other than by their say-so. Their eyewitness accounts, moreover, link Lacson to these crimes only circumstantially, or worse by mere association. Neither Devnani nor Mawanay has supplied testimony that directly implicates Lacson in drug trafficking, kidnapping and murder. They have variously implicated Erap and Jinggoy Estrada, Michael Ray Aquino, Kim Wong and other unsavory characters, but not Lacson.

I should think the easiest to prove, if true, are Lacson's secret accounts in the United States. The senators have a point when they wonder how hard it is to find corroboration for that. Money laundering is a crime in the United States, and foreigners who engage in it automatically become felons. NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco says American law-enforcement agencies have given proof of it. If so, where is it? Why hasn't it been made public? Why is it still a subject of ongoing investigation? Why has Lacson not been charged in court?

I do not like Lacson, and I believe many of the charges against him. But that is neither here nor there. The point is to prove it, or show reasonable grounds for it. We cannot have a Senate hearing characterized by waiting until something sticks to the accused. That sets an ugly precedent, one that bodes ill for cherished freedoms. Next time, it won't be Lacson. Next time it could be any one of the members of civil society organizations that currently seem unmindful of this danger.

Which brings me to the most important parameter of all, one we seem to have forgotten in our haste to convict Erap's chief *berdugo*. Which is that a person is innocent until proven guilty. The burden of proof is always on the accuser, not the accused. We reverse this proposition, and we won't end "narco-politics," we will only bring back "Marcos politics."

Personally, I think civil society does ill to direct its attention solely at the seeming recalcitrance of the Senate and not also at the muddled effort of Corpus et al. to bring Lacson down. The one is also the product of the other, certainly it finds justification in it. The Senate last year was far more recalcitrant, most of the senators being beholden to Erap, but it was compelled anyway to take Chavit Singson's testimony seriously and go through the process of impeaching the president. That was because Singson's testimony was clear, focused and backed up by facts. By all means let us rail against the "old boys' club mentality" of the Senate, but let us rail as well against the "Lacson-is-guilty-we'll-find-something-on-him-eventually" mentality we ourselves have lapsed into.

Even heaven can be made to listen. We just need something thunderous to say.

Senate show must go on

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

YESTERDAY morning Filipinos across the nation had their eyes and ears glued to television and radio. Riveting is the only word for the testimony of Mary Ong as she described the world of drug trafficking. "Rosebud" was brought by Col. Victor Corpus to the Senate to support his charges of drug trafficking and money laundering against Sen. Panfilo Lacson. The senators, like the rest of the nation, proved to be just as enthralled with Rosebud, as they focused their attention on her for over three hours in open hearing, followed by an executive session.

After Rosebud's testimony, all talk of terminating the hearings, as the opposition senators proposed, disappeared like soap bubbles. Sen. John Osmeña was correct when he said that the Senate hearings could no longer be stopped since "the genie had been let out of the bottle and could no longer be returned." In fact, that genie was yesterday prancing over Filipino living rooms. Round II, a sequel of the Senate impeachment trial, must go on.

* * *

Rosebud came across as a calm, credible and highly intelligent person, with an incredible penchant for details. Despite the grilling she got from the senators, she stuck to her story about how the Hong Kong Triad operated with the connivance of police generals and other officers and men. She wove a tale about an awesome network of corruption involving about ₱96 billion in prohibited raw drugs shipped here yearly from various parts of China, with the Binondo "central bank" as the conduit for payment.

* * *

Rosebud said she was employed in 1993 by then Colonel Lacson of the Presidential Anti-Crime Commission, chaired by Vice President Joseph Estrada. Her job was to liaison with the Triad up to November 2000, when she left because, she said, the Triad was running after her for the non-payment of drug shipments by Lacson's people. She directly implicated the PAOCTF chief and his boys in the drug conspiracy.

Lacson's problem is that it's difficult not to believe Rosebud's story. She came armed with documents of all sorts, from a photocopy of an uncashed check issued by a police general as payment for a drug shipment, to her diaries over the years, to bundles of airline tickets and boarding passes. The senators couldn't shake her up or confuse her.

* * *

There was high drama, such as when she fingered Kim Wong; pathos such as when she shed tears for the safety of her children, and even humor when a smile flitted across her wan but expressive face. Is she telling the truth and nothing but the truth? Time should tell, but what shone through her testimony was what millions of Filipinos doubtless interpreted as the truth. For what motive could this poor woman have to lay her life and those of her family on the line except the truth? Her courage and composure under fire reminded us of Emma Lim during Round I.

* * *

Actually, this was not the first time Rosebud aired her story. She had recounted it in several TV shows just before the elections last May, with Star columnist and TV host Jarius Bondoc as her fearless interrogator. But this was the first time that the Senate heard it. The impact of Rosebud's testimony before the Senate shows how powerful that chamber could be as a forum for investigation and for pursuing the national interest. Yesterday, the Senate finally became focused and acquired direction, thanks largely to the adroit handling of Sen. Robert Barbers and the expert questionings of Sen. Rene Cayetano. It became an institution we could be proud of. Not curiously, there were no opposition figures around except for Senators Rodolfo Biazon and Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

* * *

Earlier I wrote about the investigations conducted from the late 1990s up to 2000 by the US Congress of money laundering activities in US banks mainly by corrupt foreign officials with connections to organized crime and corruption in their homeland. As a result, US banks were forced to undertake reforms even as the hearings exposed the flaws in US anti-money laundering laws. If our own Congress could only summon a similar political will, so much good can be achieved, both in terms of reforming our banking system and enacting an anti-laundering law with a lot of teeth in it.

Misamis Rep. Oscar Moreno, the former House prosecutor who played a yeoman's role in the Senate impeachment trial when he handled the issue of Erap's secret bank accounts, stressed this much recently in the TV program "On Line" with Gene Orejana. Moreno noted that there were many measures the smaller chamber could take in response to the issues raised by Corpus, if it really wants to ferret out the truth about organized crime and its fruits. What he's saying is that the Senate ought not to wait for the truth to drop on its lap from heaven.

* * *

One of the most spectacular money laundering cases unearthed by the US Congress involved Raul Salinas de Gortari, elder brother of then Mexican President Carlos Salinas. Raul, who eventually landed in a maximum security jail for the murder of a rival and financial wrongdoings, was accused of moving since 1992 between $80 million and $100 million from Mexico to the United States through Citibank, the only American bank licensed in Mexico, and on to Switzerland, the Cayman Islands and other destinations. Raul's holdings, believed to exceed $200 million, were believed to have come mainly from drug protection. The interesting thing, however, was that despite the fact that as one of Mexico's best-paid civil servants, Raul never officially earned more than $190,000 a year, his bank's policy was, ask no questions.

Later, Salinas confessed to Swiss investigators that in 1989, shortly after his brother's assumption of office, he opened bank accounts overseas under false names "to avoid political scandal." But reports said that was before he discovered what is called "private banking." This is the highly confidential inner sanctum within the banks, that serves as a refuge for wealthy clients usually from countries "in some sort of turmoil" and seeking both discretion and personal attention.

The bank manager servicing Salinas' account, Amy G. Elliott, came under fire for failing to observe due diligence in verifying the source of his money and for conniving with his wife in shipping out his deposits, without the consent of the bank's legal department, when these were already held suspect by the Drug Enforcement Agency (Salinas' wife was subsequently arrested). Elliott later said she thought the Mexican official was "something akin to a Rockefeller."

Texters unite!

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

FITTINGLY enough, this came via e-mail. Anthony Ian Cruz urges everyone who reads this "Texters' Declaration" to "e-mail a copy to txtpower@hotmail.com and pass on to your friends."

Here's the "Texters' Declaration":

Texters unite! Stand up to the telecom monopolies! We, cell phone subscribers of all ages and classes, inspired by our role as information providers in People Power II, conscious of our rights as consumers and citizens, and believing that power lies at the hands of a united people, declare the following: We are outraged over the plan of Globe Telecom and Smart Communications to cut their free text message (SMS) allocations for all subscribers. This is nothing but a blatant profiteering scheme by monopolies in the Philippine telecommunications industry whose greed for profits has become insatiable; We do not believe that these monopolies are losing money. In its midyear 2001 report, Globe declared a total of P15.4 billion in gross operating revenues, signifying an 84.6 percent increase from P8.4 billion for the same period in 2000. Globe's net income for the first quarter of the year is P1.07 billion. (Source: Globe website)

For its part, Smart reversed its financial situation from a loss of nearly P1.9 billion in the first half 2000 to a net income of P1.8 billion in the same period this year. For the six months ended 30th June 2001, Smart had subscriber revenues of P12.3 billion, or an 85.3 percent increase from revenues of P6.6 billion for the same period in 2000. (Source: Smart website)

We are sick and tired of their promises of new equipment and network expansion efforts when all we get are late text messages, dropped calls, generally lousy service, weak signals, questionable accounting of calls and text messages and high fees. In fact, majority of us who have prepaid accounts are forced to accept one-sided terms and bereft of any protection from bad services.

* * *

IT'S about time that Globe and Smart fulfill their promises. We are frustrated that the government, instead of protecting the Filipino consumer, seems to be coddling monopolies like Globe and Smart. The National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) has failed to protect public interest and has allowed these companies, in the guise of deregulation, to engage in highly immoral and rapacious monopolistic practices. Now we ask the people, is this what we get for making the Philippines the text messaging capital of the world? Is this what we consumers deserve for giving these monopolies billions in annual profits? How audacious (of) Globe and Smart to threaten us with higher rates if we do not agree to their scheme! We are calling on the Filipino consumers to act now to protect our rights. We specifically demand that:

1. Globe and Smart refrain from carrying out their free text message reduction scheme.

2. The NTC investigate and resolve persistent complaints of lousy services from Globe, Smart and other telecommunication service providers in the country.

3. The government review its telecommunications policy, especially the deregulation of the market which has allowed monopolies like Smart and Globe to dictate on the consumers.

Done on 27 Aug. 2001, Quezon City, Philippines. TXTPOWER: Anthony Ian Cruz, activist writer; Raymond Palatino, student leader; Sandra Araullo, athlete; Ruth Cervantes, radio broadcaster; Trixie Concepcion, environmentalist; Roland Tolentino, college professor; Emil Mercado, visual artist; Rey Asis, campus journalist; Gerry Kaimo, Net-activist.

* * *

WOW, while politicians and the media get all lightheaded following the dizzying twists and turns of the Vic Corpus/Angelo Mawanay/Ping Lacson saga, most of the populace, but especially the young, are tuning out, not knowing who to believe, and thus choosing not to believe anyone.

After Edsa Dos and the mislabeled "Edsa Tres," followed by the chaotic elections, Lord knows this country needed a break. So perhaps young people could have been forgiven for choosing to take a vacation from activism for a while.

But look what's awakened the "sleeping dog" that is the country's post-Edsa generation. An issue that cuts close to the bone, that hits them where it hurts most. Texting, of course!

"They've managed to unite the Edsa Dos and Edsa Tres crowd," marveled a businessman who used to walk among the telecommunication giants. If he'd been asked, he said, he would have advised both Smart and Globe to "let sleeping dogs lie," and not disturb the chummy relationship they'd managed to cultivate among what they proudly dubbed "Gen Txt."

I agree wholeheartedly, being a parent of two such "Gen Txt" babies. It seems youthful subscribers even develop passionate loyalties to their cell phone company of choice. I'm often amused at how heated their debates can get with friends over the relative advantages of a Smart vis-à-vis Globe account. And the cell phone firms harped on such strong consumer loyalty, splurging on generous ad campaigns and throwing in extras like virtual pets and texting via e-mail.

* * *

NO wonder the plan of both Smart and Globe to cut free text messaging by as much as 60 percent has struck them as not just a deception, but a betrayal of the worst sort. A betrayal of someone (or some company) they had come to consider as almost family.

There are lessons to be learned here from what may have begun as a pragmatic business decision but may yet end up as a marketing and PR disaster. And I hope the lessons learned will not just be about customer relations or market research, but also about culture, social relations and the psychology of the young adult and adolescent.

By fielding youthful role models and offering all sorts of cool come-ons, Smart and Globe managed to palm themselves off as the texter's best friend. But by making such an arbitrary, unilateral decision, they have revealed themselves to be what they really are: adults out to make a quick buck. It may take some time before this particular relationship can be repaired to its old footing.

Meantime, texters unite!

The humility of Ka Chino

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

EVERYBODY loved Don Chino not only because he was brave but because he gave humility a human face, a human hand. It's easier to be brave than to be humble.

I've sometimes wondered when, in our very stratified Philippine context, a person starts being called *don* or *doña*. Is it when a person has accumulated wealth? Is it after having accomplished something or produced offspring that made something of themselves? (Parents of presidents are usually given the title.) Is it age, race? (Preferably Hispanic?)

In our country the word *don* or *doña* is heavily layered. If you put it in a semantic scale it would gather many negative associations, among them haughtiness (as seen in soap operas). But *don* or *doña* is supposed to be a title of respect.

When did Chino Roces, the revered newspaper publisher, start being called *don*? Did he fancy being called *don*? The older generation of journalists always called him *Don* Chino. But I know when he started to have *Ka* before his name. That was after Ninoy Aquino's 1983 assassination when Chino became a familiar street figure protesting the cruelty and excesses of the Marcos dictatorship.

Ka as in *kasama, kaibigan, kabalikat.* Comrade. He could have been simply *Mang* Chino, the Every Filipino, if he had to find a place among the sweaty throng. But his younger, more militant and frisky fellow street activists wanted to claim him as their own. And so *Ka* he became.

And he lived up to the appellation. He braved the sun and rain, gave drink to the thirsty and food to the hungry. Ah, I remember the great steaming pork *sinigang* that didn't seem to run out despite the multitude that flocked to his home after a protest march.

In honor of the late Joaquin "Chino" Roces (1913-1988), patriot, freedom lover and fighter, The Chino Roces Freedom Awards, now on its 12th year, conferred honors last Monday on one individual and two organizations that have espoused the same causes he lived for. Promoting freedom and active citizenship—these were "the two causes that Chino fought for with singular courage and commitment." (Humility—he showed how.)

The 2001 awardees: Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., "for his outstanding sense of judicial independence and wisdom, unshaken under the severest tests"; the National Citizens Movement for Free Elections headed by Jose Concepcion Jr. "for its sustained initiative, taken in behalf of the nation's citizens, to guard the sanctity of the democratic vote"; and Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) headed by Sheila S. Coronel "for seeking and revealing the truth, with outstanding courage and professional competence, so the people may know."

Don Chino must be pleased.

PCIJ executive director Sheila Coronel, in her speech at the awarding, remembered why humility became Chino. Excerpts:

"My own recollection of him dates back to 1986, during the first People Power revolt. The Roces family had revived The Manila Times just three weeks earlier, and had hired some refugees from the Marcos-controlled press like myself...As reporters we kept vigil through the four nights of Edsa I, covering events during the day and rushing to the office in the evening...Don Chino was often there, watching protectively over us and going out of his way to bring us food. If memory serves, I think it was Max's fried chicken and the occasional burger. But it was not the food that was memorable. It was the fact that Don Chino himself went around the newsroom to give each of us dinner...

"If there was something that Don Chino instilled in us at that time when we were still young and impressionable, it was humility. It is a trait that is sadly lacking in our profession today.

"Don Chino treated everyone the same way, whether editor, reporter or copy boy. To him, in the newsroom all are equal: everyone did what they could to bring out the next day's paper. There was no need for an exaggerated sense of self-importance.

"Journalism, after all, is not about journalists. It is about what REALLY matter. The events that make an impact on people's lives, the men and women who take part in those events, and the institutions and the individuals who have the power to influence what event would take place and how.

"The need to report on events and their meaning dates back to ancient times when chroniclers wrote down their narratives on parchment...Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, president of the Republic on the run, even wrote a directive to his troops, instructing them to transport copies of the revolutionary papers on horseback and to make sure the bundles of newspapers were wrapped in banana leaves so they would not get wet.

"Through the last hundred years of our history, we have seen the importance of newspapers and of journalism, first, in shaping the idea of an independent nation, and later, of leading that nation through crisis.

"PCIJ has tried to clarify issues and events by digging deep into them. Our belief is that journalism is about getting facts straight and then putting them in a context that gives them sense and meaning. We believe that hard-nosed reporting can catalyze, change and make reforms possible.

"We believe in the power of an informed citizenry—in the ability of Filipino readers and viewers to grasp issues and their capacity for righteous rage. To us, this is an article of faith...We saw our faith reaffirmed in Edsa last January.

"Today, we seem to have once again lost our moorings. Filipinos seem to be at a loss, no longer knowing whom or what to believe. They are looking at journalists to help them find the way. We hope we will not fail them...

"A toast to Don Chino who taught us, through his example, humility, courage and compassion."

Small change

WHEN I bought lunch the other day, I handed the cashier a crisp one hundred-peso bill. I expected to get an equally crisp red fifty-peso bill for my change. Instead, I was given a handful of coins.

The confused look on my face prompted the cashier to explain, "Ten-peso coins. *Bagong labas.*"

Imagine my bewilderment, my disbelief, my horror! Fifty bucks was now merely a handful of spare change! The silver-and-gold coins glimmered in my palm. "*Barya na lang pala ang* P10 *ngayon,*" I said to the cashier, to which she replied, "*Oo nga, susunod* P50 *na.*"

YOUNGBLOOD

Rebecca A. E. Khan

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

She laughed, I laughed. But we both knew there was nothing funny about it at all.

The ten-peso coin will eventually replace the brown paper note that we are all familiar with. It is slightly smaller in circumference than the five-peso coin, and just a little bigger than the one-peso coin. In other words, it's a small coin. The issuance of these new copper-nickel coins comes at a time when the peso's value in the world market has sunk to more than ₱50 to a dollar, with the possibility of plunging even further. The peso has rapidly devaluated over the past two years, and these newly issued coins are virtually the physical representation of the amazing shrinking peso.

Though I didn't come across any news item that would have prepared me for my traumatic first encounter with the ten-peso coin (indeed, when I showed the shiny new coins to my friends, they were just as surprised as I was), I understand that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas issued these coins because it is more cost-efficient in the long run: ten-peso bills change hands so frequently that the paper wears down quickly, necessitating the costly printing of more paper money. The release of these coins, then, makes it official: P10 is spare change, folks. *Barya. Sinsilyo.* Ten pesos can't get you much of anything anymore.

I wonder if the Bangko Sentral ever considered the psychological impact of these coins when it decided to issue them. After the initial shock, depression set in while I was studying my change. Fifty bucks in coins—and just five of them. I didn't want to believe it. The last time I felt such dismay over our currency was not too long ago, when the five-peso coin replaced the five-peso bill.

It really is depressing: the realization that what I considered, in my childhood, to be a lot of money, has been reduced to spare change in the short time it took me to become an adult. I imagine that the morale of the Filipino public will simultaneously sink with the economy.

A paper bill possesses a certain dignity, especially when it is crisp and new, that simply cannot be approximated by a coin. A child at Christmas will smile with glee if he gets a crisp bill. Hand that same child a coin of the same value and he'd wonder if his *ninong* loved him at all.

Similarly, when I was in grade school, my daily allowance was all of P2. My mother would send me off to school with a nice blue paper bill (now long extinct), and I was happy.

Coins have been called rather contemptuously *barya.* Annoyingly heavy and almost inconsequential in value, coins have often found themselves forgotten in pants' pockets, ungenerously dropped into church collection baskets or plastic cups of street beggars and left as an afterthought on plastic trays in restaurants. Ask anyone how much in coins he's carrying, and he is most likely to give a wrong answer. Almost everyone knows, however, how much in bills they have in their wallets.

Will the ten-peso coin roll down this same path of insignificance? Will P10 now be treated as *barya*?

Sadly, this is the implication of the issuance of these coins. At the very least, the ten-peso coin will affect our perception of the Philippine currency. The psychological effect of transforming a paper bill into a coin is just too great. As our economy declines, the value of P10 hurtles toward inconsequentiality, whether in truth or just in our minds.

What is just as infuriating is that the images of two of our most important national heroes—Apolinario Mabini and Andres Bonifacio, key figures of the Revolution without whom we would never have gained our freedom—have been cramped on to the face of a small coin. You can hardly recognize their images now, since the two profiles share the space on such a small surface. In addition to a decline in the value of the peso, we also have here a decline in the respect and honor we give to our national heroes. It was bad enough that the image of Bonifacio was unceremoniously inserted into the ten-peso bill when the two-peso coin was removed from circulation, but now this is a greater act of disrespect.

True, the brown ten-peso paper bill will remain legal tender for the time being. We still have a chance to get one of these brown bills and preserve them for posterity. We will still be able to enjoy the engravings of Barasoain Church and the Katipuneros' signing in blood that appear at the back of the bill. We can still commit to memory the images of Bonifacio and Mabini and let our eyes dance along the intricate swirls and whorls that are characteristic of a paper money's design.

And, for the time being, we'll still know what it's like to carry P10 in our wallet instead of in our coin purse, where, in the future, the ten-peso coin will rest heavily, even if P10 will feel weightless.

Rebecca A. E. Khan, 23, is a third year student at the University of the Philippines College of Law. Her short stories have appeared in the Philippine Graphic, Mega and several student publications.

THEY SAID

Erap's Waterloo

"One of the issues against Erap was the proliferation of gambling joints. It was an issue that precipitated his fall and it would be extremely awkward for his successor to sponsor a project he was pilloried for."

—Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri urging President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo not to reopen the jai-alai

Bad for law and order

"Local control might only put police operations in jeopardy as some executives are not really serious in the drive against lawlessness."

—Davao del Sur Mayor Arsenio Latasa, on the proposal to grant mayors control and supervision of the police

10-percent solution

"Assuming that only 10 percent of Ador's information is true, then by all means let us hear it."

—Sen. Manuel Villar

Elected to serve

"We would like to remind the senators that they were elected to serve the common people and not to shield an erring politician from public scrutiny and possible wholesale condemnation."

—Gerry Albert-Corpuz, information officer of the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas

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Diarrhea of words, constipation of ideas

IF there is a government agency that should be abolished, it is the Senate because it is perhaps the most expensive yet the least cost-effective agency in government. It appears that its main function is to investigate just about anything, including the Brunei beauties, in aid of legislating nothing.

As our professor in medicine would say of most of our senators, they have a diarrhea of words but a constipation of ideas or, they suffer from tenesmus—too much effort, nothing doing. The best thing they can give to our citizens is free, though oftentimes irritating, entertainment.

So how do we go about the task of abolishing this costly Senate? Let us amend the Constitution and change to a parliamentary system, lest we land in the Guinness Book of World Records as the country with the queerest Senate in terms of composition and function aberrations.

Anyway, we have long had this kind of government and it does not seem to work. Our problems do not get solved—they get worse. And life just becomes harder for everybody, especially the poor.—**M.S. DE VILLA, 400 Northwest Ipil St., Marikina City**

Corpus' crusade deserves our support

INTELLIGENCE Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief Victor N. Corpus risked his honor and career on a very important matter: the dreaded drug problem. He fears the country might turn into another Colombia. The United States, which at the time of the Cold War considered the Philippines as its watchdog in Asia, now considers it as the transshipment point of the Chinese triad for drugs going into North America.

Where is Colombia and what is the Chinese Triad that they have caused so much headache to the US government?

In the 1970s, in Colombia, South America, there was a federation of about 20 families that supplied drugs mostly by private planes into the United States. This powerful and murderous federation became what is known as the Medellin cartel. Its headquarters is in Medellin, a city located in a lush valley of the Andes mountains. The cartel had a virtual monopoly of the world's multi-billion-dollar drug market.

The drug syndicates operating in Hong Kong, China and Taiwan are part of the Triad, Asia's most feared criminal gang. The Triad emerged after the breakup of the famous French Connection in 1970. The Triad has connections with Chinese communities all around the world. It used to supply drugs to North America and Europe by using the Golden Triangle of Burma (now Myanmar), Laos and Thailand. Now, the Triad is believed to be using the Philippines as the jumping board to the United States.

The cartel and the Triad are ruthless organizations. The cartel punishes its enemies with the so-called "Medellin Cravat," where a victim's throat is sliced open and the tongue is torn out to hang on the chest. The Triads make its members take 36 oaths, including one that requires them to murder anyone who stands in their way. A Triad law declares: "If a member breaks an oath, may he be killed by myriad of swords."

The United States has suspected the Triad of using the Philippines as a drug transshipment point as early as 1990. Phil Needham was an agent of the US Drug Enforcement Agency who was pulled out from Bangkok and sent to the Philippines. Needham worked with the National Bureau of Investigation in a drug buy-bust operation that claimed the lives of Col. Rolando de Guzman, Maj. Franco Calanog and CIS agent Avelino Manguera. That early, scalawags in the military-police were already in the drug business.

In 1997, Navy Ensign Philip Andrew Pestaño committed "suicide" inside his ship allegedly after telling on another Navy man who loaded sacks suspected of containing drugs. In Pangasinan, Lubang Island, Occidental Mindoro, and in a drug laboratory in Lipa City, Batangas, tons of drugs have been seized, but who knows where they are now?

Although tons of drugs have been seized by the authorities, not a single big-time drug lord has been jailed, fueling speculations that some prosecutors, judges and justices are on the take. The kingpins of the drug trade are laughing at all of us. The staggering profits from the drug business make the drug lords and their connections unstoppable.

Drugs can corrupt an entire society. Narco-politics can buy government officials and place politicians in power. Drugs can push our country to criminal anarchy.

This is what Col. Victor Corpus is telling us about. His "silent war" is no longer silent, and he must be supported by you and me.—**RODOLFO MEIM ACEBES, 2118 San Roque 2, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro**

Local drug firms should learn from India

THE GOVERNMENT'S move to bring in cheaper imports of medicine from India will help our fellow Filipinos. It is only fair that our leaders show utmost concern for saving human lives.

I've seen how expensive medicines can be. My mother is a diabetic and needs daily insulin shots that cost at least P1,000 a month. My father recently had a double bypass and the hospital bill alone reduced considerably our family's savings. To maintain his recovery, my father needs at least five different kinds of medicines daily. The medicines aren't cheap; at one time we had to spend P10,000.

We belong to a middle-class family and somehow we are able to provide the daily requirements in maintaining the health of our parents. But it is difficult because it is so costly.

It is not easy for us to purchase these medicines. You can just imagine how difficult it is for those who have less spending capacity and who make up more than half of our population.

I understand the concern raised by local pharmaceutical firms regarding the implications on their businesses of the importation of these medicines. However, rules change in the field of business and companies should be able to adapt to changing rules. Perhaps different business models and better business processes will enable local pharmaceutical firms to offer quality medicines at lower prices.

India is able to offer these medicines at lower prices because they have been able to turn their pharmaceutical industry into a "complete industry" which is less dependent on the imported (and presumably more expensive) components.

Have our own pharmaceutical companies looked at the business models that India's pharmaceutical companies use? Our local pharmaceutical industry has its own association (PHAP) through which the members can exchange information about best practices and processes. Have the local pharmaceutical companies taken advantage of this knowledge and changed their own business models to enable them to compete? Perhaps, instead of looking at the government as competition, it is the time to form strategic alliances with the government. Research and development, for example, is an area where government and pharmaceutical companies can benefit. If costs could be brought down, these companies would attain their profits and the government would then realize its objective of helping the Filipino people.—**N.T. OLAZO, 101 Imperial St., Cubao, Quezon City**

Where did all the pork go?

I WROTE to express my concern over the controversial pork barrel of our lawmakers.

It strikes me as strange that despite the billions of pesos allotted for the pork, there are still defective streetlights, uncollected garbage, bumpy roads and insufficient schools and hospitals everywhere. So, where have all the pork gone? To the mayor's office? To the contractors and subcontractors?

Elections have come and gone, and apparently our voters commit the same mistake of electing corrupt officials over and over again. During the campaign period, the same people who embezzle us ask for our votes.

Where will the Filipinos go from here? Why must the ordinary Filipino work hard every day, while his trusted congressman filches his tax money?

I believe that it is our right to know where our hard-earned money goes. We all have the right to know what really is going on in Congress, and to the pork barrel funds.—**REX QUIMIO, Muntinlupa City**

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PACSPORTS Legaspi Village will be open on Sunday Sept. 2

Lipa shabu haul only 58 kilos

THIS pertains to the INQUIRER news report published on Aug. 25, 2001, titled "Where 950 kilos of shabu went," by Nelson F. Flores, which was about the Philippine National Police raid on a clandestine shabu laboratory in Barangay Sto. Niño, Lipa City.

The official finished product found during the raid was 58.55 kilos only, not 1,000 kilos as reported. This is because the other confiscated evidence were still in the processing stage and the rest were still raw materials. If the confiscated raw materials were completely processed then it could have produced the estimated 1,000 kilos of high-grade shabu.

No less than Interior Secretary Joey Lina inspected the shabu laboratory together with the director, general of the PNP, and they knew that the estimated quantity included newly processed shabu and ingredients, as found in an official inventory at that time.

Nonetheless, all the evidence confiscated are intact in the evidence room of the Regional Crime Laboratory Office 4 and secured by our Regional Mobile Group personnel. The case is now pending with the regional trial court in Lipa City and the officer in charge of the case is Supt. Ericson T. Velasquez, chief of the Criminal Investigation Division/Legal Office of the National Capital Region Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.—**CHIEF SUPT. DOMINGO A. REYES JR., director, Police Regional Office 4, PNP National Police Commission, Camp Vicente Lim, Calamba, Laguna**

The Filipino diaspora

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

SOMEONE sent me a clipping from the Filipino-American newspaper Philippine News, June 13, 2001 issue, with the latest statistics from the US census conducted last year. The "official" Filipino population in the United States, we learn, was 1,850,314 for that census. I put official in quotation marks because, as the Philippine News points out, the numbers probably excluded the "undocumented," people whose stay in the United States is illegal or, in Filipino, the TNT (*tago nang tago* or hide and hide).

The figures got me thinking about the extent of the Filipino diaspora: almost 2 million Filipinos in the United States alone. That means one out of every 40 Filipinos now lives in the United States. The numbers will probably continue to grow in the years to come, partly because of growing discontent with the situation in the Philippines.

It's important that this diaspora be documented because these waves of migration give us a more complete picture of our history and heritage. Why did people leave in the first place? What did they keep of Filipino culture, and why?

Last weekend I found a book at the Tradewinds shop, a reprint of a 1983 book called "Filipinos: Forgotten Asian Americans," by Fred Cordova. It is a panoramic account of Filipinos in the United Sates, covering the period 1763 to 1963. The book is packed with information, including an amazing collection of photographs.

The book presents the first documented evidence of "Filipinos" in North America collected by Marina E. Espina, a Filipina librarian working at the University of New Orleans. Espina's research showed that "Filipinos" arrived in Louisiana as early as 1763. (Remember the term "Filipino" was, until the late 19th century, reserved for Spaniards born in the Philippines so we're using the term loosely here.) The first "Filipinos" who arrived in North America were actually referred to as "Manilamen," crew members on a ship plying the galleon trade between Manila and Acapulco in Mexico.

Probably labor conscripts, these Manilamen escaped into Louisiana's bayous and started a community of "Filipino Cajuns" in Louisiana. Cordova's book includes the front cover of the constitution and by-laws of the Sociedad de Beneficencia Hispano Filipinas de Nueva Orleans, established in 1870 by these Filipino Cajuns.

There were probably other Filipinos who made their way to North America quite early during the Spanish colonial period. After all, the galleon trade began in 1565 when a ship set out from Cebu for a 204-day voyage to Mexico. More ships, certainly with Filipinos among the crew, were to ply this route for the next 250 years.

Cordova speculates that some Filipinos probably deserted the galleons from Manila after they docked in Mexico. Cordova also presents other tantalizing vignettes about other Filipinos: he suggests, for example, that one of the 46 founders of Pueblo de Nuestra Señora Reina de los Angeles, better known today as the city of Los Angeles, probably was a Filipino named Antonio Miranda. The city was founded in 1781.

The American occupation of the Philippines opened more opportunities for Filipinos to migrate, although this took off rather slowly. The 1910 US census found only 160 Filipinos in 16 mainland states, with Louisiana alone accounting for 84, although Cordova says the descendants of the "Manilamen" already numbered some 2,000.

More Filipinos were to leave in this new wave of formal migration to the United States. These migrants were mostly agricultural laborers but there were also a few professionals, including some nurses and teachers. By 1930, the US census found 45,208 Filipinos in 48 mainland states, two-thirds of them in California.

In 1934, the Philippine Independence Act created the Philippine Commonwealth, with an assurance of independence in 10 years. Immigration quotas were declared for Filipinos who wanted to migrate to the States. The quota was 50 a year. With this restrictive immigration quota, and World War II, the number of new Filipinos arriving in the United States became negligible.

Right after World War II, there was another wave of immigration, mainly Filipinos who had served in the US armed forces and their dependents. The Filipinos who had arrived earlier now formed a sizeable community, including second-generation Filipino-Americans. The 1960 census showed 176,310 Filipino-Americans, most of them in Hawaii and California. In 1965, US immigration laws were amended and created new quotas for many countries, including the Philippines, which was now allowed 20,000 entries a year.

This was the era of "brain drain," when we lost many of our doctors and nurses. That wave ended too when the United States closed its doors to doctors and nurses. In the last few years though, the markets opened up again to professionals, with some signs of the doors closing again as the United States goes into a mild economic recession.

Even limiting ourselves to the Filipinos in the United States, we find that the information about Filipino migration still tends to be patchy. We hear more often about the success stories, about the surgeons who made fortunes. We know too little about the Filipino laborers and what they went through in California's orchards or in Alaska's canneries. It was not an easy life, as we know from the work of one of those Filipino-American workers, Carlos Bulosan. There was racial discrimination, including anti-miscegenation laws in some states that barred "colored" people, including Filipinos, from marrying Caucasian women.

At the University of the Philippines and other colleges, we are beginning to get quite a few Filipino-American students, some in search of their roots. It is good they have come back, but I know, too, many will return to the United States (or, for "Can Boys and Can Girls," to Canada). These children and grandchildren of the diaspora will find some of their roots here in the Philippines, but they will have to realize, too, that their heritage is to be found as well in North America by reconstructing and collecting the stories of all these waves of Filipino migrants, from the "Manilamen" to the *sacadas* to our 21st century émigrés working in computer technologies.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Hill sister clarifies Tulfo's claims

I HAVE a high regard for Ramon Tulfo as a principled journalist, who is also one of my favorites along with Conrado de Quiros and Justice Isagani Cruz. However, in fairness to Alice Lacson, Sen. Panfilo Lacson's wife, I want to set the record straight.

My brother, Reginald "Reggie" Hill (misspelled as "Gil" in Tulfo's column), was not detained at the MISG for a year, but only for a much shorter period of time. While it is true that my brother was a problem child, it was because of the environment and peer pressure at the time, and he was nonetheless compassionate with those who had less in life.

My father, Marvin R. Hill, a lawyer who is now deceased, never used his influence to defend my brother in his cases before the courts of law. Using his influence was never his cup of tea.

My father always enjoyed a good reputation not only as a lawyer but as a man of honor and integrity. Respected individuals who knew him can attest to this, including several clients he had defended, helped or assisted in the course of almost four decades of law practice.

Going back to Alice, she had long been separated from my brother when she filed a petition for the annulment of their marriage. (I have not seen her for a long time.) There are court records which will corroborate this fact. We learned much later that she married Panfilo Lacson.

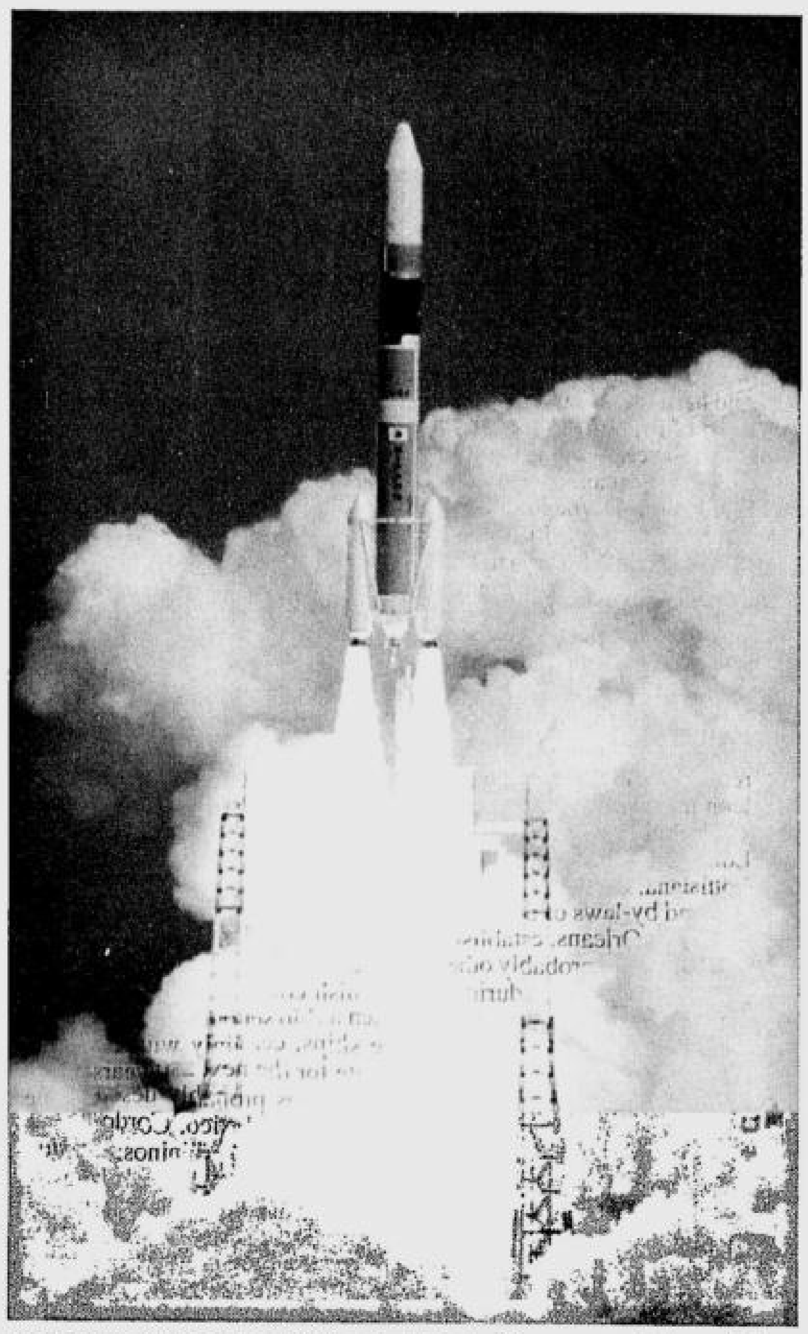
It is not true either that my brother was run over by a truck. Reggie was with our other brother Robert when they met an accident in Alabang, Muntinlupa. The car they were riding collided with a Metro Manila Transit bus on April 21, 1978. Both of them died as a result. A case filed against the Metro Manila Transit Corp. will attest to this.

I would not like to open wounds that have long been healed. The loss of my two brothers in 1978 and that of my father in 1994 were too much to bear, but time helped heal the sorrow and pain. However, as my father always taught me, the truth should always be heard and known. Hence, this clarification.

I hope that this letter will put the issue to rest.

In closing, I would like to say that my admiration and respect for Ramon Tulfo remains.—**KATHERINE HILL-IGNACIO, Aurora Boulevard, Cubao, Quezon City**

Japan's first H2-A rocket blasts off



JAPAN'S next generation H2-A rocket blasts off in a successful launch from Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima. REUTERS

TOKYO—Japan's first H2-A rocket roared off a launchpad from a small southern island yesterday, carrying a monitoring device and the country's hopes for the future of its space program.

The domestically developed rocket's payload reached its destination more than 1,800 km above the earth's surface within 40 minutes, as expected.

The National Space Development Agency launched the $71-million H2-A into clear skies three hours later than scheduled because of a malfunction in a device designed to indicate whether a pipe to the rocket's fuel tank was connected properly.

The centerpiece of Japan's aerospace program, the rocket is designed to carry a four-ton satellite. This time, it was only carrying a three-ton sphere and equipment to monitor and record the rocket's flight systems.

Much to the relief of Japanese space officials, yesterday's launch appeared to go off without a problem once the fueling glitch was resolved.

"We want to let the world know that Japan's rocket program is back on track," Nasda director Shuichiro Yamanouchi told reporters. "But this was just the first launch. It's important now that we move ahead with preparations for the rocket's second and third launch."

The H2-A's launch has been fraught with delays that have raised questions about the future of Japan's once-promising space program.

Nasda had planned to send the H2-A into space on Saturday, but a faulty valve forced officials to postpone the lift-off. It was the second time officials moved back their launch plans—the first coming in February due to cracked pipes and plating in the rocket.

Japan's rocket program has suffered from a series of setbacks recently.

The first five launches of the prototype H-2 rocket—the H2-A's forerunner—went off without a hitch. Japan has put a satellite in orbit around the moon and was the first nation to dock two satellites in space by remote control.

But since 1998, the program has been dogged by mechanical failures, budget excesses and two failed launches of the H-2—including one two years ago in which officials deliberately exploded the rocket in mid-air to keep it from careering out of control.

Those mishaps have cost billions of dollars and thrown the entire aerospace program into doubt. When Nasda blew up its rocket in 1999, it destroyed a $83-million satellite along with it.

The 53-meter-high, 285-ton H2-A rocket is built with 20 percent fewer parts than its H-2 predecessor, making it trimmer, cheaper and less prone to malfunction, Nasda officials say.

Designed especially for commercial use, the H2-A costs half the H-2.

Japanese space officials say it rivals rockets built in Europe and the United States, and are working on a special rocket booster that would allow the H2-A to carry a 7.5-ton payload into orbit within two years.

The higher-powered rocket would give the space program what it needs to compete for business with Europe's Ariane and America's Atlas. *AP*

Tokyo won't hand over Fujimori

TOKYO—Japan yesterday reiterated its refusal to hand over former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, two days after Peru's Congress voted to lift immunity for the ousted leader so he can face charges of homicide and forced disappearance.

A foreign ministry official said "Japan's position remains unchanged" adding that it has no plans to extradite Fujimori to Peru to face prosecution.

He cited Fujimori's status as a Japanese citizen.

Fujimori has been in his parents' native Japan since November, when he made an unexpected stop in Tokyo and announced his resignation from the presidency. Fujimori, who ruled for a decade, has been charged in Peru with abandonment of office and dereliction of duty. *AP*

Drug money laundered on Thai stock market

BANGKOK—Police yesterday said they had cracked an illegal drug ring that laundered at least $1.5 million on the Stock Exchange of Thailand.

Five Thai suspects were arrested and more than one million methamphetamine pills seized in sting operations in the cities of Bangkok, Chonburi, Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai on Monday and Tuesday.

Police Col. Vichai Saengprapai, chief investigator for the case, said one of the suspects, Chadaporn Euachua, had laundered at least $1.5 million through Adkinson Securities Co. on the Thai stock market.

Police believed the cash was linked to the United Wa State Army, an ethnic army in neighboring Burma, also known as Myanmar, thought by narcotics experts to be the main producer of illegal drugs in Southeast Asia's Golden Triangle. Huge quantities of heroin and methamphetamines are smuggled from Burma to Thailand.

Thai narcotic suppression police and the Anti-Money Laundering Commission say they have launched a nationwide crackdown against black money as part of a concerted attempt by Thailand to control the drugs menace.

"This is the first case that we discovered of drugs money laundered through a securities company," Vichai said.

The five suspects were taken into custody on charges of conspiring to traffic drugs and with violating the money laundering act, he said.

A spokesperson for Adkinson Securities Co. said the company was shocked by the allegation of money laundering and was investigating.

It would issue a statement later, she said, on customary condition of anonymity.

Police said the 70 million baht was transferred from two Thai companies, Siam Power 1999 Co. and Chanayon Import-Export Co., for investment in stocks through Adkinson Securities. The two companies, which are registered in the northern province of Chiang Rai in the Golden Triangle, could not be contacted for comment because neither has a listed phone number.

A spokesperson for the Stock Exchange of Thailand, or SET, said it was not the duty of the SET to investigate the case, but the anti-money laundering commission's. She spoke on customary condition of anonymity. *AP*

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Low-grade war intensifying

WASHINGTON—US and British attacks on Iraq's air defenses have intensified in recent days, indicating the Pentagon's growing concern about the risk to pilots enforcing "no fly" zones in the north and south. On Tuesday, US and British fighter jets attacked two military targets in southern Iraq, one day after an unmanned Air Force reconnaissance aircraft was lost near the southern city of Basra. The Pentagon has acknowledged losing the Predator drone but is not sure whether Iraq shot it down, as Baghdad claims. Tuesday's targets were facilities that provide command, control and communications support for Iraqi air defense fighter aircraft, one US official said. More than a half-dozen US and British strike aircraft carried out the attacks, accompanied by more than a dozen jammer and other support planes. The attack was planned in advance, unlike many previous strikes in which US or British pilots encounter Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery or surface-to-air missiles while on patrol and fire back in self-defense, officials said. *AP*

Bush has nothing to fear

UNITED NATIONS—The head of the United Nations Children's Fund says she can assure US President George W. Bush that next month's children's summit will not support abortion—and she's still hoping he'll join over 75 world leaders in New York. "The (conference) document doesn't refer to abortion," Carol Bellamy said in an interview Tuesday. "This is a document about health of kids, education of kids, child protection, child soldiers, child labor, HIV/AIDS." The General Assembly Special Session from Sept. 19-21 is a follow-up to the 1990 World Summit for Children, where nations made commitments to specific goals on child survival, protection and development. This year's gathering will review progress made and tackle emerging issues such as AIDS orphans, disarming child soldiers, eliminating child trafficking and ending child labor. Delegates from over 100 countries are meeting at the United Nations this week to iron out disputes over language in the session's final document. *AP*

Ship carrying refugees stopped

CHRISTMAS ISLAND, Australia—Elite Australian military personnel boarded a Norwegian cargo ship carrying 438 refugees yesterday after its captain defied orders banning it from entering Australian territorial waters, Prime Minister John Howard said. The Special Air Service troops were ferried to the ship, the Tampa, on three boats, this island's harbor master, Don O'Donnell, said. The boats returned to Christmas Island after dropping off the Australian troops. No refugees were transferred back to the island, he said. Howard said the soldiers had secured the ship. There were no reports of any violence. Witnesses said the troops were armed with machine guns and automatic rifles, and some were wearing body armor. On Monday, the Tampa rescued the refugees—most of them Afghani—when the ferry illegally carrying them from Indonesia to Australia without visas began sinking. *AP*

Military strategy gains support

BOGOTA, Colombia—With peace talks fizzling and Colombia's armed forces showing sudden promise on the battlefield, support is growing here for using military force to bring leftist insurgents to their knees. The shift could foreshadow an intensification of this South American nation's 37-year guerrilla war, and comes as the US government debates how best to aid a troubled neighbor without getting sucked into the conflict. A hardening of attitudes is apparent among many Colombians, including business leaders and top candidates in next year's presidential elections. They accuse the guerrillas of intransigence and question President Andres Pastrana's largesse in handing the nation's largest rebel group a huge chunk of territory as an incentive to negotiate. A high-level US delegation arriving Wednesday—the first since President George W. Bush took office—will meet with Pastrana as part of a review of US policy in Colombia. *AP*

Palestinian gunfire continues despite Israeli Army invasion

JERUSALEM—Palestinians renewed fire on a Jewish neighborhood in a disputed part of Jerusalem yesterday despite an Israeli Army incursion into a West Bank village in efforts to stop the shooting.

The standoff contained the seeds of further escalation in a conflict that has ratcheted up several notches in recent days.

In Gaza, five Israeli tanks entered Palestinian territory early yesterday to destroy two Palestinian police outposts near the Jewish settlement of Morag, Palestinian police said. In a gunbattle that ensued, one Palestinian was killed and three were injured, Palestinian police spokesperson Bilal Salem said.

Hours after the incursion, an Israeli flag had been raised at one of the destroyed outposts and two tanks still remained in the area, the police said. The Army did not immediately comment on the incident.

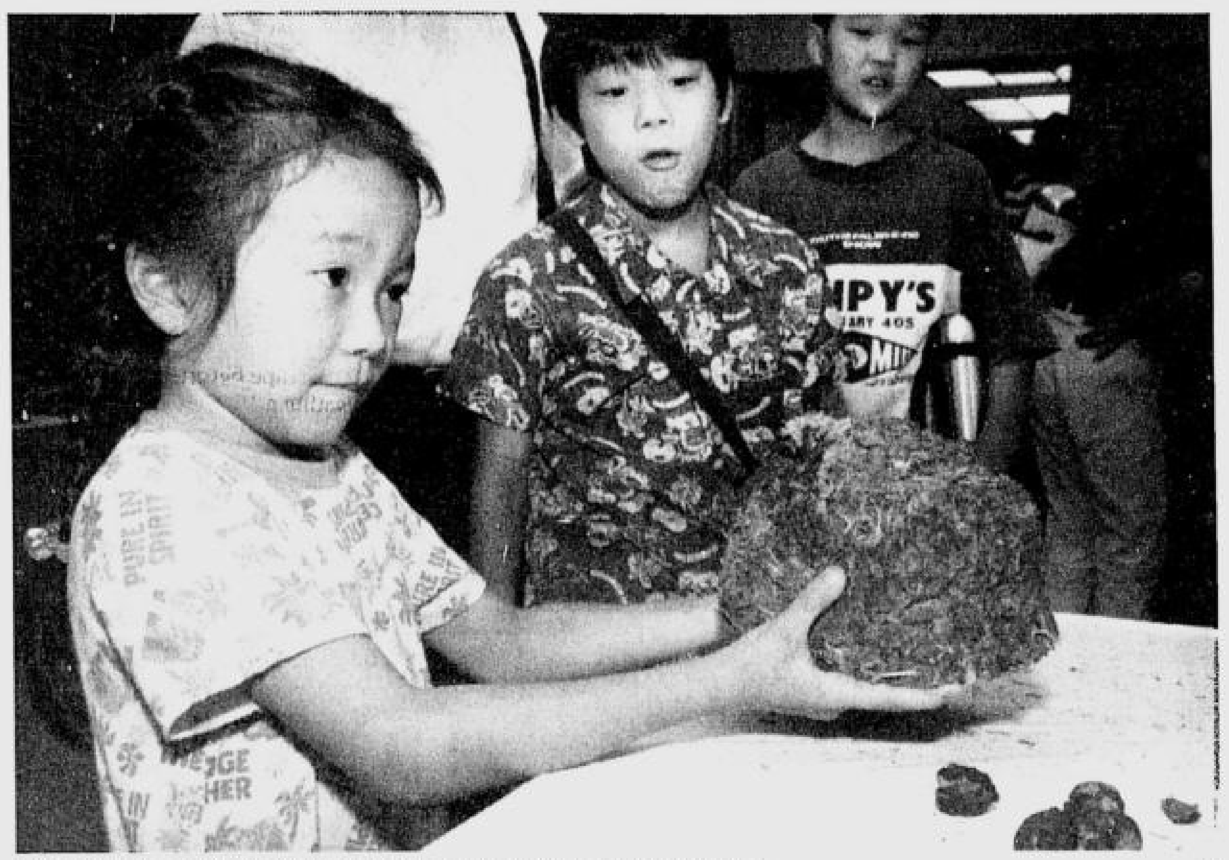
Also, Israeli tanks briefly entered a Palestinian-controlled area near the city of Dir al-Balah early yesterday, Palestinian security officials and the Army said. The Israeli troops were shot at and returned fire, the Army said.

Local residents said the bulldozers leveled farmland and destroyed greenhouses and a building.

A second Palestinian was killed yesterday and two others lightly injured when shots were fired at the car they were traveling in near the West Bank settlement of Mishor Adumim, Israeli police said.

The attack on the Palestinians on their way to work at the settlement was apparently carried out by Israelis since the car had Palestinian license plates but all possibilities were being checked, police spokesperson Rafi Yaffe said.

Another Palestinian was killed and three others injured overnight near the West Bank city of Tulkarem when Israeli troops fired on Palestinians who were drinking tea at their farm, Palestinian witnesses said. *AP*



NATSUKI Yano lifts a pound-cake-size sample of dried elephant dung. AP

Japan kids get the scoop on poop

TOKYO—It may be the filthiest exhibit ever held by a Japanese museum.

But organizers insist the 78 kinds of animal and human excrement on display at the Tokyo Science Museum have an important lesson to teach—and they appear to have a hit on their hands.

"We want to teach children to take responsibility for their health and be aware of the environmental consequences of what they do," said Toshiko Sunada, a food journalist who helped plan the exhibit. "There's a lot you can learn from poop."

Exhibit highlights include a 4,500-year-old fossil left behind by a neolithic Japanese seeking a little relief from all that hunting and gathering. The obvious favorite, however, is a pound-cake-sized sample of dried elephant dung at the touch-and-feel table.

"Since it's dry, it doesn't smell so bad," 10-year-old Atsushi Fukushima said after his mother prodded him to pose for a picture holding the grass-encrusted sample. "It's also lighter than I thought it would be."

Grimaces and giggles from the crowds of mostly elementary school students enjoying the show aren't uncommon. But the exhibit, which ends Thursday, illustrates just how up front the Japanese are about a subject many other people might prefer to keep behind closed doors or tidy euphemisms.

When a best selling Japanese children's book called "Everyone Poops" was released in translation in the United States three years ago, school librarians got complaints from some parents.

In Japan, such things aren't an issue.

"It's the most natural thing in the world," said Shoichi Sato, 66, while examining a series of panels showing how sewage can be transformed into bricks or ceramic pots.

The exhibit, titled "All the Poop," arrived in Tokyo this month after enjoying a success last year in Japan's second-largest city, Osaka. About 10,000 visitors have paid $4 for a look since the show opened Aug. 10 for a three-week run. Visitors learn that a hyena's droppings are tinged white because the scavengers of the savanna gobble down bones left over by larger predators. Koala scat is surprisingly fragrant because of the eucalyptus leaves they munch. *AP*

Manifesto of Support for Coop-NATCCO Party-List

It has been reported that the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), in its Partial Compliance Report to the Supreme Court, included the Cooperative NATCCO Network Party (Coop-NATCCO) among the party-list groups that should be disqualified. We cannot understand this, and we call on the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) to immediately redress this grievous error.

The Court defined the guidelines for the party-list candidates in its June 26, 2001 decision.

The Supreme Court said:	We say:
1. The party-list group should represent the underrepresented and marginalized sectors of our society - "majority of its membership should belong to the marginalized and under-represented. And it must demonstrate that in a conflict of interests, it has chosen or is likely to choose the interest of such sectors".	Coop-NATCCO's membership is composed of farmers and fisherfolk, salary and wage earners, self-employed, housekeepers, students and others. In the 11th Congress, Coop-NATCCO advanced and supported various causes and bills of the marginalized and under-represented sectors such as the recovery of the coconut levy funds, the amendment of the Cooperative Code, safeguarding the rights of seasonal farm workers under CARP and others.
2. The party-list candidate should not represent any religious group.	Coop-NATCCO clearly has no religious affiliation nor does it represent any religious group. It adheres to the International Cooperative Alliance principle of religious neutrality.
3. The party-list organization "must not be an adjunct of, or a project organized or an entity funded or assisted by, the government".	Coop-NATCCO has never been and will never be an adjunct of government. We know that the relations between Coop-NATCCO and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) have been strained, to put it mildly. This is apparently because of Coop-NATCCO's effort to amend the CDA Charter. Coop-NATCCO has also never received funding from the government. Like other duly elected party-list groups and congresspersons, Coop-NATCCO was able to endorse/identify projects for the benefit of its constituency. Coop-NATCCO itself did not receive any of these funds allocated by Congress.
4. The party-list candidate and its nominees should not have any of the disqualifications under the Party-List Law.	Coop-NATCCO and its nominees qualify under the Party-List Law. It has in fact already served a full three year term in the last Congress.
5. The party-list candidate should have the ability to formulate and enact legislation.	Coop-NATCCO authored more than 25 bills and resolutions in the 11th Congress and co-authored more than 90 other measures. Several of these bills were passed into law. Five of its priority bills were also approved on third and final reading by the House.

And so we say, why disqualify Coop-NATCCO? We see no reason for this. It would be a grave injustice to Coop-NATCCO and to all marginalized and under-represented sectors if Coop-NATCCO would not be allowed to take its rightful seat in Congress.

Danilo Songco
Caucus of Development NGOs Network (CODE-NGO)

[illegible] Loza
Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahan ng Magsasaka (PAKISAMA)

[illegible] A. Gentallan
Community Mortgage Program Congress (CMPC)

Esther Penunia
Agrarian Reform Now! (AR Now!)

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Laban ng Alyansa ng Mangingisda para sa Reporma (LAMPARA)

[illegible]
Coconut Industry Reform Movement (COIR)

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Northern Samar Federation of Agri-Based Cooperative (NSFAC)

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Mag-uugmad Fdn./Upland Farmers

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Pagtambayayong/Specialized Housing

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US hands off on American's rape case

Embassy officials check suspect

BACOLOD CITY—The United States government is adopting a hands-off policy on the rape case filed against a retired American serviceman.

But US Embassy officials expressed concern on the retired serviceman's condition while in detention.

US Vice Consul Michael Newbell visited on Tuesday Victor Pearson, 53, at his detention cell in the Negros Provincial Jail to check on him.

He had a closed-door session with Pearson and later with Supt. Geary Barias, Negros Occidental police chief, and provincial jail warden Marcos Ybañez.

Pearson said yesterday that Newbell wanted to make sure that he was not being maltreated and his rights as a person were being protected.

But he said Newbell also told him that the US government would not interfere in his case pending before the Municipal Circuit Trial Court in Ilog town, about 109 kilometers southwest from here.

Pearson also quoted Newbell as saying that the only help that the US government was willing to provide suspected rapist was to give him food and medicines if he needed these.

But, he added, Newbell assured him that the US Embassy would make sure that his rights would be protected while he is in detention.

Barias said the US Embassy would not provide a lawyer for the jailed former serviceman.

"It's not our job to give him a lawyer," Barias quoted Newbell as saying.

Pearson is facing 10 counts of rape before the Ilog MCTC for allegedly molesting a 15-year-old girl, who was staying in his house.

The American maintained innocence of the charges filed against him. He said he is confident that the court will acquit him of the charges.

"If *kaya ng* Filipinos, *makaya ko rin* (If Filipinos can stand life in prison, I can stand it too)," Pearson said.

He said his condition at the provincial jail was better compared to what he experienced at the Ilog police station where he was first brought after he was arrested early this month.

Pearson claimed that some Ilog policemen maltreated him during his stay at the police station. He said he planned to file charges against these policemen.

Insp. Fidel Fortaleza, Ilog police chief, denied Pearson's accusation. But he said he respects the right of the American to bring his grievances to the court. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

OPLAN "PAGUWAPO"
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DATE:
VENUE

HOME SERVICE BUTCH ENERIO

Villages of remote Bunai in Salay, Misamis Oriental got a rare treat recently when the provincial government sent barbers to the area to provide free haircuts.

Rains worry Zambales folk

IBA, Zambales—Eight northern Zambales towns are in danger of isolation should heavy rains brought about by three tropical depressions affecting Northern and Central Luzon continue, officials of the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council here said.

PDCC officials identified the threatened towns as San Felipe, Cabangan, Botolan, Iba, Palauig, Masinloc, Candelaria and Sta. Cruz.

They said since Friday, heavy rains have rendered the national highway in Barangay Maloma in San Felipe impassable to light vehicles and have isolated Barangay Sto. Niño in the town.

Reports said roads leading to Sto. Niño, a coastal village with 4,000 residents, are submerged in more than three feet of water.

In a briefing, Rommel Asuncion, secretary to San Felipe Mayor Edilberto Abille, expressed fears that the almost daily rains in the province may cause floodwaters to rise to a level that could prevent even trucks from passing through the highway. *Cesar Villa and Bert Basa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Probe of Army 'abuses' sought

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Leaders of human rights groups here called on Congress to investigate alleged rights violations committed by the military in several villages in Salay, Misamis Oriental.

The military denied the allegations.

Maj. Johnny Macanas, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based here, said the allegations were made just to destroy the gains made by the Army in bringing closer to the government people in areas that had been occupied by the New People's Army.

The groups Alliance for the Advancement of Peoples Rights (Karapatan) and the Promotion of Church Peoples Response (PCPR) and other group in Misamis Oriental issued the appeal after conducting a fact-finding mission in the villages.

The groups claimed that the villages are heavily militarized and that human rights abuses are rampant.

Karapatan also demanded the withdrawal of the Army from the villages and the dismissal from the service of soldiers guilty of the abuses.

The groups sent their appeal to the House of Representatives through the left wing party-list group Bayan Muna.

Gov. Antonio Calingin said it was unfair for the human rights group to accuse the military of any wrongdoing when all the military was doing was trying to bring the government closer to the people.

Salay Mayor Vevencia Capistrano said she has not received any complaint of abuses when she visited Barangay Bunal, allegedly one of the militarized areas.

"Since the military came to my town I have not receive or heard of complaints coming from the residents. Most of the residents who came to me (even) thanked the military's presence in their area, because they were given the opportunity to be reached and (avail of) basic services," Capistrano said.

The provincial government brought doctors, agriculturists, engineers, carpenters and barbers to the village to provide free services. ***Butch Enerio and Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Luzon and Western Visayas will experience cloudy skies with occasional rains. The rest of the country will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Baguio	Cloudy with rains	HI 22° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 22°
Laoag	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with rains	HI 29° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 26°
Calapan	Cloudy with rains	HI 30° Lo 23°
Bacolod	Cloudy with rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with rains	HI 34° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains	HI 33° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with rains	HI 32° Lo 26°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/30/01

ROUNDUP

Cleanest in Region 11

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Sarangani province was named the cleanest and greenest province in Region 11 (Southern Mindanao) during the recent regional search for "Gawad Pangulo sa Kapaligiran." Provincial officials said they were informed of the award through a faxed message sent by Romeo Jardenico, regional director of the Department of the Interior and Local Government in the region. Kiamba, a component town of Sarangani, also bagged the regional award as the cleanest and greenest municipality.

Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Bulacan garden showcase

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan—To bolster the cutflower and garden industry here, the local government has offered free garden showcase areas for businessmen. Mayor Ambrocio Cruz said the garden showcase area is more than a kilometer wide and is near the elliptical road in Barangay Tabang here. Cruz said an 80-square-meter space was being offered to at least 40 garden operators and businessmen as one of the incentives to boost the industry.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Alliance vs 'jueteng'

SORSOGON CITY—The provincial board, city council, police officials and church representatives have formed an alliance to stamp out jueteng in the province. In a recent meeting, Gov. Raul Lee suggested a "workshop" to draw up a formula to eradicate jueteng. Fr. Noli Alparce, representative of Bishop Jesus Varela, said the Church would support "a workshop with all the legal minds" in the province.

Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Wrong Charter Day

NAGA CITY—This only chartered city in Bicol has been celebrating its foundation on Dec. 15 for the past 52 years until a tabloid here revealed that the charter day was an error. Dr. Pablo Trillana III, National Historical Institute chair and executive director, declared Dec. 15 "a historical error," and June 18 as the appropriate charter day of Naga, which was "the date of the effectivity of (Republic Act 305)" and the approval of its charter. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

No. 2 wanted man falls

LUCENA CITY—A former policeman who ranked second in the list of wanted criminals in Southern Tagalog for leading a robbery and holdup gang was arrested on Thursday. Supt. Roberto Rosales, Quezon police chief, identified the wanted man as former San Juan Batangas policeman Nelson Sulquia, 48, and resident of Barangay Poctol, San Juan, Batangas. Sulquia had long been wanted for the death of one Conrado Vergara on Nov. 22, 1994 in the same barangay. He had a P100,000 prize on his head. The police report said the suspect was also the leader of the Sulquia gang, a criminal group with a string of robbery and holdup cases in Batangas, Laguna and Quezon. Sulquia denied the charges. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

70 fishermen rescued

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Residents of Barangay Langogan here rescued 70 fishermen from Mindoro after their boat capsized due to bad weather. The captain and crewmembers of FB Mark Jomar, a boat registered in Mindoro, said they were approaching the shore of Barangay Langogan to fetch water for their consumption when big waves hit their boat. It immediately capsized and went under, taking with it the crewmen's belongings and fishing paraphernalia. The fishermen are temporarily staying with some residents of Barangay Langogan.

Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

4 drug suspects held

VIRAC, Catanduanes—Police arrested on Saturday four suspected drug pushers and users in a raid on the house of one Edgardo de Guzman in the town's poblacion. Operatives seized seven pieces of medium- and small-sized plastic sachets containing white crystalline believed to be shabu, a roll of aluminum foil and a lighter. Chief Insp. Loreto Tablizo Jr., Virac police chief, said De Guzman, 45, escaped together with Arnel Palmer, 28, Domingo Tablate, 35, and an unidentified suspect. He said police had busted three gangs responsible for drug trafficking on the island.

Joanna Bernal, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Pilots avert accident

TACLOBAN CITY—The pilots' timely discovery of a hydraulic leak in a Philippine Airlines plane before the aircraft's takeoff on Tuesday prevented another aircraft accident. The Philippine Airlines cancelled its Manila-bound Flight 192, which was supposed to leave Daniel Romualdez Airport at 7:25 a.m., after the pilots noticed the leak. Domestic airport control tower chief Alladino Basinag said had the pilots not detected the hydraulic problem, the plane's brakes could fail on touchdown, causing it to overshoot the runway of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Vicente Labro, PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOCOS SUR CHURCH STAND

Return of 'jueteng' condemned

VIGAN CITY—Calling it "evil," Catholic priests in Ilocos Sur condemned the resurgence of jueteng in the province and in other areas in Northern Luzon.

"We feel saddened and alarmed with the resurgence of jueteng in Sudipen, La Union, from where bet takers operate in Tagudin, Sta. Lucia and Sta. Cruz in Ilocos Sur. An added concern was the confirmed moves in Narvacan town and Candon City to operate once again the evil numbers game but which was temporarily stopped," the Priests Assembly of Nueva Segovia Archdiocese said in a statement that was read during Mass in churches in the province on Sunday.

The three-page "statement of urgent concern" was approved unanimously by the Ilocos Sur clergy and Archbishop Edmundo Abaya.

"Since 1987, jueteng made the poor poorer, many of them lazier, dependent on good luck or '*suerte*,' rather than depend on their personal hard work. This evil numbers game enriched the gambling lords and their henchmen throughout the province, many *sari-sari* stores and other businesses went bankrupt as their proprietors betted more than they could earn," the statement read.

The priests said jueteng also institutionalized corruption among government and police officials "as it became an accepted fact that a monthly *payola* was forked out to all willing officials."

The priests called on Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano and all Ilocos Sur mayors to stop the resurgence and spread of jueteng in the province.

They also called on former Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, whose jueteng exposé led to the downfall of former President Joseph Estrada, to help them in fighting jueteng in the region.

"We also call on former Governor Singson to lead the region (and) to stand now with the Church and the people in stamping out this social cancer as the Church stood with him at Edsa 2," the priests said.

In Pampanga, the city council of San Fernando passed a resolution declaring an "all out war" against the operation of all forms of illegal gambling in the city, particularly jueteng.

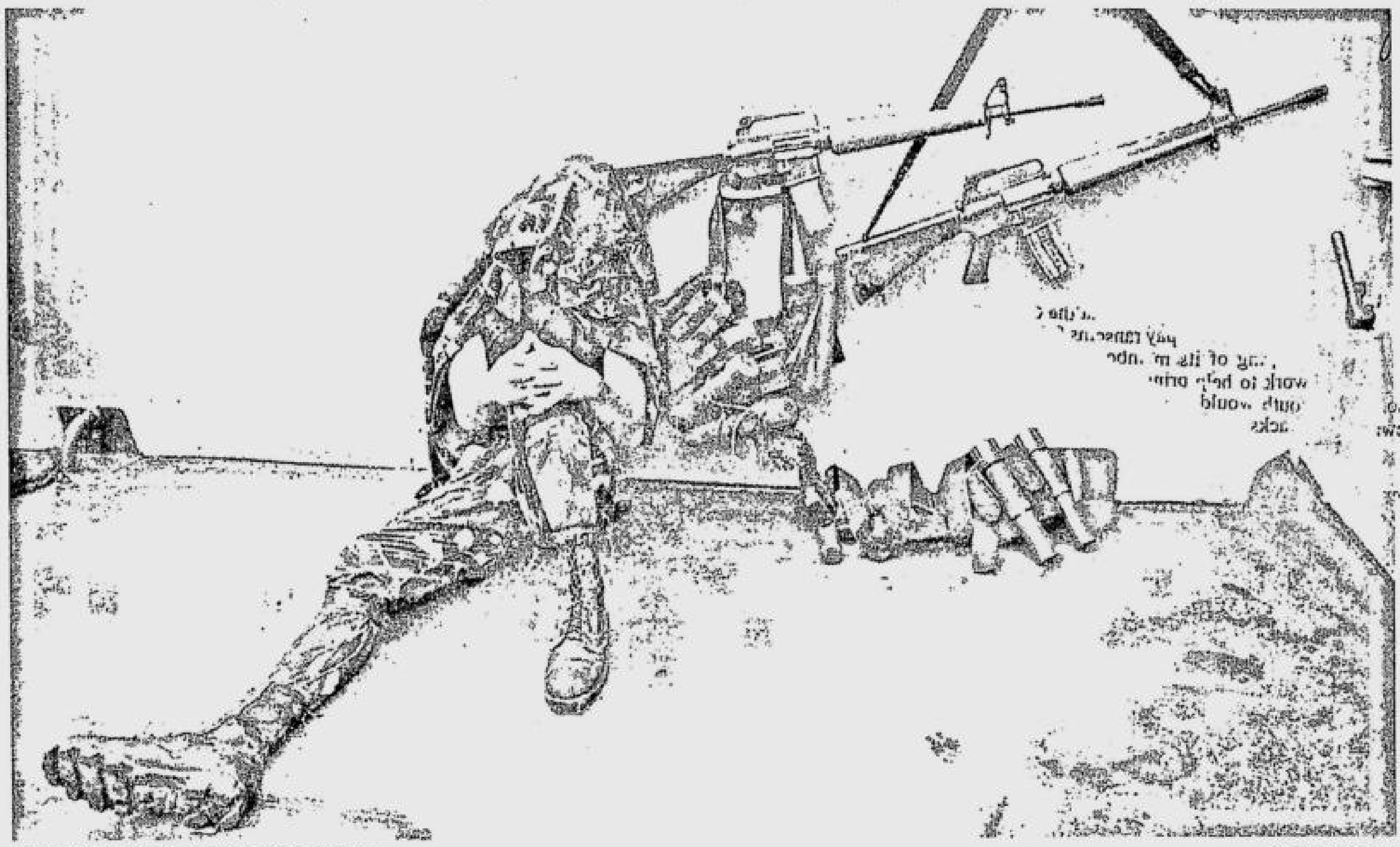
The resolution, authored by Councilor Bernie Castro, made mention of the "Juetengate Scandal" that rocked the country last year.

"The evils of . . . gambling, particularly the illegal numbers game, will continue to deter moral ascendancy to govern among our duly elected leaders which is inimical to national interest," the resolution said.

The council passed the resolution after it observed that despite an existing ordinance on games and amusement that penalizes illegal gambling, jueteng operators continued their activities "with impunity."

A top police official in Camp Olivas, Central Luzon police headquarters, claimed that Melchor Caluag, alias Ngongo, is the biggest jueteng financier not only in the city of San Fernando but also in the towns of Guagua, Sto. Tomas, Minalin, Mabalacat, Magalang, Bacolor and Mexico.

Caluag ran but lost as city councilor in San Fernando in the May 14 elections. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Bert Basa, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

CHARLIE SACEDA

Rest, for a body tired of war and bloodshed, doesn't choose a place. For this soldier, rest has to take place on a Navy boat that transports troops who get temporary relief from their pursuit of Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

Townsfolk suspect graft led to 5-day outage

MAGALANG, Pampanga—Officials here want the National Electrification Administration to investigate a cooperative that, despite reportedly getting loans, has not upgraded its 29-year-old transformer that bogged down and left some 60,000 residents here without electricity for the last five days.

The NEA, which oversees electric cooperatives in the country, must examine if the massive blackout, which began on Aug. 23, was caused by neglect, Mayor Pastor Guiao said.

Cora Musni, member services department chief of the Pampanga Electric Cooperative I (Pelco I), said no loans have been obtained through the NEA to replace or improve the damaged transformer that provides power to Magalang's 27 villages.

She said it was difficult obtaining government funds for electric cooperatives wanting to improve their services.

But the NEA itself is in doubt.

During the height of public debate on the omnibus power bill early this year, the Central Luzon Electric Consumers Cooperative (CLECC) decried the alleged irregularities in the NEA's purchase of equipment and alleged fund misuse.

In the case of the damaged 10-megavolt ampere (MVA) substation for Magalang, Pelco I resorted only to repair which was done almost two years ago and largely on consumers' money.

Last week, rainwater leaked inside the transformer, causing it to suffer a short circuit, Musni said.

It would cost the Pelco I management more than P1 million to replace the unit, it was learned.

As protests from residents and businessmen here rise over the massive blackout, officials from the National Power Corp., Pelco I and the Angeles Electric Corp. (AEC) agreed to restore electricity in this booming industrial town.

Musni said the agreement allows the Nepomuceno family-owned AEC to temporarily supply the town with three megawatts of electricity daily starting Wednesday.

But at that rate, she said not all of Magalang's villages would get their electricity back. The whole town needs at least 6 MVA daily.

Catalina Saplala, CLECC chair, said Magalang's case showed "how consumers could suffer from NEA's neglect and its corrupt practices." *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

General says lack of troops strengthens NPA

LEGAZPI CITY—The head of the Armed Forces Southern Luzon Command has blamed the transfer of troops to Mindanao and the reduction in the number of militiamen for the increase in the number of communist guerrillas in Bicol and Southern Tagalog.

Maj. Gen. Narciso Abaya, Solcom commander, told the INQUIRER that they had noted that several towns and villages located mostly in island-provinces in these areas had become virtual guerrilla zones.

Abaya said one such area in the Southern Tagalog region is Oriental Mindoro where at least four of its towns—Bulalacao, Roxas, Mansalay and Bongabong—are under almost complete control of the armed leftist insurgents.

In Bicol, the military has noted a significant increase in NPA-occupied villages in the island-provinces of Catanduanes and Masbate during the first quarter of the year.

In Masbate alone, according to the report, 67 barangays had been occupied by the NPA in the second quarter, compared with 38 in the first quarter of this year.

In Catanduanes, the increase was from zero to eight villages in the first quarter.

There are no government troops stationed in these areas.

Abaya said that in an area considered as a guerrilla zone, the New People's Army exercises full control of the population—including the local government, tax collection and the economy.

The military defines an affected barangay as one where the NPA has achieved the sympathy of at least 25 percent of the population.

Abaya said that the increase in guerrilla influence was a result of the reduction of troops either by transfer to Mindanao and a reduction in the number of members of the Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Units. *Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cops threaten to sue NGO on child abuse report

DAVAO CITY—Davao City police director Senior Supt. Wilfredo Garcia threatened to file criminal charges against the child advocate group Tambayan should it fail to produce proof that members of the city police are turning children held for curfew violation into "sex slaves."

"That was a (very) serious accusation against our policemen. We will (certainly) file charges against Tambayan," Garcia said.

He said it was unfair for the group to accuse the police of molesting minors rounded up for violation of curfew hours because it was discouraging policemen from doing their jobs.

City policemen, he said, have been working very hard to safeguard and protect the people of Davao.

Garcia said he already consulted a lawyer on the appropriate charges that would be filed against Tambayan, once the group fails to substantiate its allegations.

During a hearing of the Sangguniang Panlungsod's committee on children's welfare last week, Tambayan executive director Pilgrim Gausa said policemen sexually abuse detained minors.

Gausa also told reporters the group has documents to substantiate the accusations. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

4 dead in Zambo grenade blast

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Four persons were killed while five others were seriously wounded after a fragmentation grenade exploded in a neighborhood in Barangay Camino Nuevo here around 9:30 p.m. on Monday.

Supt. Mario Biong Yanga said that three of the victims died on the spot, while the third died in a local hospital.

Yanga identified the victims as Jose Umanog, Lourdes Bilan and sidewalk vendors Virgie Tilde and Henry Alegria.

Alegria died of multiple shrapnel wounds at the Zamboanga City Medical Center early Tuesday.

Yanga said investigators identified Pfc. Charlie Alar, a member of the Philippine Marines, as responsible for the explosion.

"He was seen playing with a fragmentation grenade as early as 4 p.m. on Monday while drinking with some of his neighbors. Witnesses said that he later released the safety pin and toyed with the grenade," he said.

Yanga said that Alar himself was seriously wounded.

The wounded victims were identified as Jenny Alcantara, Oliver Tilde, Marvin Alagasi and Dante Garcia.

He said homicide charges are now being prepared against Alar.

"I hope Alar will survive so that he can face these charges," Yanga said.

Col. Francisco Gudani, deputy commander for operations of the AFP Southern Command, said they are looking into the possibility of paying for the hospital bills of the wounded victims and for the funeral expenses of those who died.

"We deeply regret what had happened, we will try our best to appease the families of the victims," Gudani told the INQUIRER. *Julie Alipala-Inot, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Rains, fever down Mt. Pinatubo canal workers

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, Pampanga—Five Aetas and a public works engineer working on the Mt. Pinatubo canal project have fallen ill since Tuesday, unable to endure the winds and intermittent heavy rains that have buffeted the 1,400-meter high summit.

The ailing members of the 98-member construction team, all down with fever, have begged to be excused from the work but declined to go home, according to Adriano Doble, one of two Department of Public Works and Highways engineers supervising the project.

Reached from the DPWH communication center here through radio at the crater's Maraunot notch, Doble asked his superiors to send a team of doctors to check on the health of the workers.

At least 96 of them were Aetas who reached the volcano's peak on Aug. 23 amid bad weather.

Doble said engineer Eduardo Bautista and the five Aetas have been recuperating in tents pitched at the viewing deck of the O'Donnel notch, 1.2 kilometers northwest from Maraunot.

They expect recovery in a week's time. Medicines for common ailments like fever were adequate, he said.

Doble said he and 75 Aetas have crossed over to Maraunot through a rubber boat, maintaining their camp there since Sunday to dig the four-meter wide, four meter-high and 100-meter long trench.

Through the spillway, the DPWH will release at least 15 million cubic meters from the total 250 million cubic meters of water that have accumulated in the lake since Mt. Pinatubo erupted in June 1991.

The spillway aims to avert the lake's natural breaching or overflow that geologists expect to trigger major lahar flows and flashfloods in Botolan, 40 km west of Mt. Pinatubo.

Armed with picks and shovels and clad in rubber boots and raincoats, the Aeta workers have dug 1.2 meters deep into the notch, leaving a freeboard of 2.9 meters between the rim and the water surface.

The freeboard, according to Doble, is made of hard materials, believed to be the remnants of the old crater, which will be scraped later to allow the gradual discharge of water at daytime and under good climate.

Below the notch, Doble said the Aetas have excavated a length of 30 meters. They plan to advance uphill until the high and low portions of the canal meet. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Son of MILF leader hunted

(From page A1)

Kabalu said the MILF had identified Ato Masandang, nephew of former Malabang Vice Mayor Hadji Omar Masandang, as one of the gunmen.

According to the MILF spokesperson, both the nephew and his uncle are former rebels of the Moro National Liberation Front.

Kabalu said the MILF condemned the killing of Halley, a 57-year-old missionary of the Columban order who had served at the Our Lady of Peace parish in Malabang for the past 20 years.

"Men of peace like him should be spared from the violence. But there are people who give priority to money that they would not think twice about killing people," he said.

Bueno said Halley was waylaid about 5 p.m. on Tuesday as he was returning to his parish after attending a meeting of Muslims and Christians in a neighboring town.

As he drove his motorbike down a dirt road in Barangay Diamaro, six masked men armed with M-16 rifles flagged him down.

Bueno, citing witnesses, said one of the gunmen shot Halley as he tried to run. The priest was shot four more times when he fell.

"He crossed his arms as if to cover himself from the bullets. One of the bullets shattered his skull," Bueno quoted a woman witness as saying.

"It was a foiled kidnapping . . . It was so brutal," he added.

Anwar Balindong, mayor of the predominantly Muslim town, said he had warned Halley not to travel alone following reports that he was the target of a kidnap-for-ransom gang.

Maj. Johnny Macaranas, spokesperson of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based on Cotabato City, said soldiers were helping the police track down the gunmen.

CBCP statement

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines condemned the "brutal and unconscionable" killing of Halley whom the CBCP described as "an advocate of peace."

The CBCP headed by Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo also pressed authorities to relentlessly pursue the gunmen.

PRIESTS Colin McKeating and Paulus Lubof view the remains of Father Halley at the Our Lady of Peace Parish in Malabang.

EDWIN FERNANDEZ/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

"The brutal and unconscionable murder of Father Rufus Halley is a great tragedy," the CBCP said in a statement. "We strongly condemn his brutal murder in Lanao del Sur by still unidentified persons."

"We will press the proper authorities to follow any lead, pursue every angle that would lead to the apprehension of the murderers and their just punishment through the courts," the CBCP stressed.

It also emphasized that the Catholic Church did not pay ransoms for the kidnapping of its members, and that its work to help bring about peace in the south would not be deterred by these attacks.

"We have suffered enough because of the many crimes against innocent people of various professions and social classes, who have been kidnapped or killed by lawless persons or groups," the CBCP said.

"We are appalled especially when the victims are those who are precisely working for peace," it added.

Halley, who arrived in the Philippines in 1969 and had lived in Mindanao for 20 years, was a peace advocate who was loved by both Muslims and Christians in his parish, the CBCP said.

Like all Columbans who volunteer for ministry in the predominantly Muslim areas of Mindanao, Halley was fully aware of the risks, his Irish classmate and congregation director Fr. Colin McKeating said.

"But he was so at home there. He knew a lot of people, and was well loved by Muslims and Christians alike. It was not at all unusual for him to be travelling alone," McKeating said in a statement.

'No to all-out war'

Italian missionary Fr. Angel Calvo, president of Peace Advocates Zamboanga, said the people of Mindanao should mourn Halley's death.

"Here was a man who was trying to bring peace to this troubled island and yet he was mercilessly killed," Calvo said.

Halley opposed the Estrada administration's policy of all-out in Mindanao that he even refused to say Mass for government troops then stationed in Malabang.

"This war between the MILF and the government troops will not yield victors, but would only make us all losers. War is always ugly, no matter how one would justify it. Violence (might) succeed in the short term, but (not in the long run)," Halley said then.

News about Halley's death shocked his relatives in Ireland, according to reports reaching the INQUIRER.

The reports indicated that the priest's relatives were awaiting the Columban order's decision where he would be buried.

The last time Halley visited his relatives was in May when he was given a three-month vacation.

Fr. Richard Pankratz, superior of the Columban Order, who arrived in Cagayan de Oro City yesterday from Cebu, refused to talk to the media.

He said what is important for them now is to arrange for the funeral of the slain priest. *With reports from Charlie C. Señase, Butch D. Enerio, Jonathan F. Ma, Grace C. Albasin and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Norman Bordadora and Carlito Pablo in Manila; AP, AFP and Reuters*

Christians, Muslims . . .

(From page A1)

principal, said.

It was "equivalent to the death of 10 Maranaws or 10 Christians. That's how important Father Halley was to us," according to her colleagues.

Thousands of Christians and Muslims mourned the death of Irish missionary Fr. Rufus Halley, or Father Popong to his parishioners, who was shot dead by one of six men believed to be kidnappers on Tuesday afternoon.

Residents of this sleepy coastal town lined up to view the remains of Halley, 57, at the Our Lady of Peace parish church. Malabang (pop.: 30,000) become a virtual ghost town as people from all walks of life trooped to the church despite the excruciating heat.

Police identified one of the suspects as Akto Sumagayan Daing, 35, a son of Moro Islamic Liberation Front Commander Sumagayan. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

Halley was the 23rd member of the Columban Fathers to die violently abroad since the order was founded in 1918, according to the online edition of the Dublin-based Irish Independent.

He was the second eldest among seven children of the late Maxie Halley, a solicitor in Waterford City in Ireland, and Imelda, who is now in her 80s, it said.

Another Columban priest, Desmond Hartford, was kidnapped by former Moro rebels in Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte, on Oct. 27, 1997 but was released unharmed after 12 days.

"This is a terrific shock for all of us. It has come out of the blue," Hartford was quoted by the Irish Independent as saying.

"There has been a history of violence and conflict between the two (Christian and Muslim) communities in the region. Rufus was a bridge between them."

Fr. Bernard Maes, a Belgian missionary who is Halley's "neighbor parish priest" in Balabagan town, wept as he saw thousands of Muslims and Christians line up to take a glimpse of the Columban priest's remains.

'Real victims'

"The real victims are the people here who have been victims of kidnapping and injustices by lawless groups," said Maes, who himself was kidnapped in 1997 by Moro bandits in Balabagan.

"We seek justice for Father Rufus much as we ask for justice for ordinary people who were either kidnapped or killed," Maes told the Church-run radio dxMS.

"I never thought that when we parted ways, that was the last," he said in Cebuano, adding that Halley's vision for the people of Malabang "will continue despite the risks we face."

Halley's superior in Manila, Fr. Colin McKeating, and his colleagues in the Prelature of St. Mary in Marawi City and Lanao del Sur came to view the remains of the slain peace advocate and inter-religious dialogue expert.

"If not because of him, there's understanding between the two different faiths in Malabang," Balindong said in between sobs.

Nothing unusual?

"I didn't notice anything unusual about him when we parted ways," Josefina Balboa, who treated Halley and Maes to a sumptuous lunch recently, remembered the Irish priest's last words to her.

"See you next Tuesday," she quoted Halley as telling her.

"I never thought those were his last words for me . . . I'm not going to see him next Tuesday," she said, tears flowing from her eyes.

"Why a good man has to die when there are many bad guys who should die first," Bob Anton, a farmer-trader, said.

Malabang parish is under the Prelature of Marawi City. Its motto is "Dialogue of faith between Muslims and Christians."

"We had been working for dialogues among Muslims and Christians here, he is well loved by the people," said Jun Sillada, Halley's confidante.

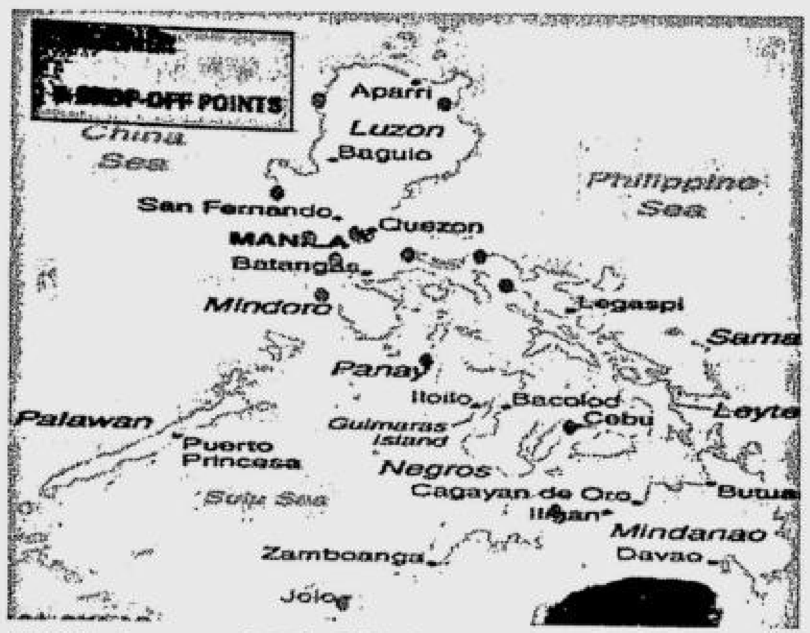
Sillada said Father Popong always waved his hand every time he passed by Maranao communities and spoke with the people in the vernacular fluently.

"If he was not a Caucasian, anyone who is not from here would assume he was a Maranaw," he added.

Melig Tan, a Chinese-Filipino trader, said Halley was her spiritual adviser who always reminded her family that "there is no substitute for dialogues in achieving peace and harmony in our hearts and the community we live."

"We demand justice for Father Popong and the government should act swiftly," said Vic Ong of the Lanao de Sur Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Halley's body will be brought to Cagayan de Oro City. On Saturday, he will be buried at the Columban Cemetery there at 9 a.m.



HOW the drugs come into the Philippines, according to Col. Victor Corpus who presents this chart at the Senate hearing.

JESS YUSON

Corpus: Bust Narc groups to solve drug problem

(From page A1)

sea of illegal drugs in and out of the country.

Transshipment

Actually, he said, the Philippines was being used as a transshipment point of drugs coming from China, including Xiamen and Hong Kong.

"The drugs that come to the Philippines and are brought abroad are of higher quality than the drugs left (to be sold here)," Corpus noted.

He said the drugs were shipped to the United States, Japan, Malaysia and Thailand.

Another chart he presented also identified the supposed drop-off points of the drugs: Aparri in Cagayan, San Fernando in Pampanga, Mindoro, Panay, Cebu, Iligan and Jolo, among others.

Corpus also said the drugs from the Hong Kong Triad were being brought in with the connivance of airline, shipping and customs personnel.

Balikbayan boxes

He said one of the ways the drugs were being shipped in was in *balikbayan* boxes.

Realizing that the country's coastlines allow the illegal drugs to come in, Sen. Joker Arroyo asked Corpus how the problem could be remedied.

"There should be a complete revamp of the PNP Narcotics Group, the NBI Narcotics Command and the Customs Narcotics Group," Corpus said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said he now understood why the military was investigating the drug problem, which it considers a national security concern.

Biazon asked Corpus during the hearing why the military, and not the police, was doing the investigation.

Corpus said Ong's testimony showed that the police were involved in drug trafficking.

Bill goes shopping . . .

(From page A1)

something else to gawk at on Monday when he went bikini shopping with British actor Sir Anthony Hopkins.

Clinton and Hopkins were followed by a gaggle of photographers, beachgoers and security men as they walked along the trendy Ipanema beach promenade.

Television footage showed Clinton clad in Bermuda shorts, sneakers and a T-shirt. He was knocking a volleyball around and admiring a sand sculpture as passersby stared.

The high point came when the two silver-haired men entered the Blue Man beachwear boutique to check out Brazil's most famous fashion product—the bikini.

According to TV Globo, Clinton spent 288 reais ($113) on two bikinis and three sarongs.

But it was not immediately clear whom he was shopping for.

Clinton, whose two terms in office were highlighted by an economic boom but marred by a sex scandal with intern Monica Lewinsky, is due to give a speech before professors and students at the Armando Alvares Penteado Foundation in Sao Paulo.

Clinton and Hopkins will then head to the spectacular Iguassu waterfall on the border with Argentina. *Reuters*

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CEBU/DAVAO vice-versa	P2,339	P2,039	
CEBU/ZAMBOANGA vice-versa	P2,388	P2,089	
ZAMBOANGA/DAVAO vice-versa	P2,388	P2,089	
MANILA/BACOLOD vice-versa	P2,498	P2,199	P1,949
MANILA/ILOILO vice-versa	P2,498	P2,199	
MANILA/CEBU vice-versa	P2,608	P2,309	P1,999
MANILA/TACLOBAN vice-versa	P2,718	P2,419	
MANILA/KALIBO vice-versa	P2,608	P2,309	
MANILA/DUMAGUETE vice-versa	P2,608	P2,309	
MANILA/CAGAYAN de ORO vice-versa	P3, 295	P2, 919	P2, 399
MANILA/DAVAO vice-versa	P3, 307	P2, 919	
MANILA/ZAMBOANGA vice-versa	P3, 295	P2, 639	
ILOILO/DAVAO vice-versa	P3, 295	P2, 839	P2, 549

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Rosebud exposes stink

(From page A1)

Forces (Isafp) who testified at yesterday's continuing inquiry into allegations that Lacson was involved in drug trafficking, kidnapping and money-laundering activities.

In the three-hour-long hearing, Ong, dressed in a bright pink Chinese silk jacket, testified calmly on how she and anti-narcotics officers bought illegal drugs from the Hong Kong triad and then allegedly sold the drugs to others, including suspected Chinese drug dealers detained in Camp Crame.

Ong said that she turned state witness last year against Lacson because the triad was going after her, since police officers who bought drugs directly from the triad had failed to make the payments.

"I want to stay alive. I'm on their termination list. I had to tell the truth to keep myself alive," she told senators.

Ong told senators that she had previously worked for the Binondo Central Bank—a black market network of dollar exchange traders in Chinatown that ceased operations in 1986—where she was involved in "(controlling drug) couriers and the smuggling of dollars out of the country."

She stunned senators when she said the Binondo Central Bank is still operating in the country and that "most of the drug money" is still being remitted here.

Comical moment

About 50 triad groups, many of them minor gangs of young thugs, are active in Hong Kong, according to a Hong Kong government website on law enforcement.

The website identifies several larger groups, including the "14k" triad, which military intelligence chief Victor Corpus has linked to restaurant owner and alleged drug lord Kim Wong and identified as a major source of the drug trade here.

Ong claimed that there were many people in the country connected with the triad and identified Wong, who was in the session hall, as one of them.

On the prodding of a senator, she went to Wong's side and tapped him on his back. There was even a comical moment when Wong stood up for a "photo opportunity" with Ong, prompting one senator to caution the Chinese businessman not to "make an entertainment (sic) out of this scene."

Oplan Athena

According to Ong, Acop issued a check of P2 million as "show money" for a drug purchase for Oplan Athena. The amount was enough to buy some 20-30 kilos of shabu, she said.

Ong presented a "photocopy" of the unused check signed by Acop as evidence.

Dated Oct. 10, 1998, the check with account number 0014-000148-6 came from the United Coconut Planter's Bank. The check's number was 0146133.

Acop later admitted issuing the check to Ong but said the money was meant to "help" Ong redeem mortgaged property facing foreclosure by a bank. *(See related story on Page A1.)*

Asked why she kept a photocopy of Acop's check, she said: "I am an agent. I learn to keep (records)."

They were supposed to meet a contact at a casino who was supposed to cash the check, but he never showed up at the scheduled meeting, she said.

Instead, she said Col. Francisco Villaroman, an officer of the Narcotics Group, later produced P2 million in cash, which he took from an envelope marked with the name of "Magbuhos," whom Ong said was a jueteng operator, implying that the money had come from jueteng proceeds.

Route

Ong said the check was remitted to the triad via the Binondo Central Bank, which originally operated during the martial law years with the blessing of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

She stunned senators when she disclosed that she called up a contact from the bank, who in turn told her to deposit the money in an account in a Metrobank branch in Binondo.

"(I) am telling you that up to today the remittance company is still open. It has never been closed," Ong said.

She said a contact from the triad later confirmed receiving the money.

The triad shipped the drugs to Mindoro Occidental a week after receiving the money, she said. The *shabu* was brought to the Century Park Hotel in Manila, where she and Campos went to pick up the shipment in the hotel's parking lot, she continued.

Ong told the senators that a group of policemen had checked into the hotel for a month to conduct surveillance operations. She identified some of the officers as a certain Ritchie Watanabe, Remus Gardanera and a brother of a certain Col. Andrada.

She said their contact borrowed her car and car keys, and a day later, these were returned to her with the drug shipment in the trunk of her white 1996 Sentra.

Ong claimed that they then gave the drugs to a policeman, who in turn sent the lot to another policeman in Camp Crame. This police officer, she claimed, was in charge of the detention center in Camp Crame. He sold the drugs to the Chinese nationals detained there for drug offenses, she said.

The Chinese detainees, whom she said were "level 2 drug lords" and "wholesalers," sold the drugs by contacting their buyers via cellular phone, she added.

She claimed that their "runners" were policemen.

Voice breaking

Ong claimed that one of the bosses of the triad, a certain Mr. Lee, was Wong's friend. "I don't know whether (Wong) works for the triad. I know he is dealing (drugs) with the triad," she claimed, although she said she had not had any drug dealings with Wong in the Philippines.

Ong said she had not included her allegations against Wong in her affidavit, because she would also have to include the names of generals.

Asked to identify other people dealing with the triad, she requested to be allowed to do so in a closed-door executive session.

She showed pictures of her son and of a nephew who was apparently murdered.

Her voice breaking and her eyes wet, Ong said: "These are my children and I don't want . . . This happened to my nephew and I don't want it happen to my boys."

Ong, aka Mary Chua, who used the names of flowers like "Rosebud" and "Lily" as her code names in her drug dealings, said she met Lacson in 1992 through a Chinese national, Alfred Lim.

She said Lacson recruited her as an undercover agent in 1993, since she had connections in the Binondo Central Bank in the 1970s.

Lacson sent her to Hong Kong where she worked for British agent Senior Detective Ron Abbott as an "informant," she said.

She produced bundles of airline tickets, to prove her trips abroad involving the drug purchases.

'Credible'

Senators Renato Cayetano, Robert Barbers and Joker Arroyo all described Ong's testimony as "credible." The three, along with Senators Francis Pangilinan and Rodolfo Biazon, also said that the inquiry was finally heading somewhere.

Arroyo and Cayetano said this was because Ong had personal knowledge of the drug dealings.

Arroyo said the hearing was "very fruitful" and expressed belief that her testimony somehow "cured" earlier doubts on the need for the inquiry.

He said there was no need for Ong to corroborate her claims because the Senate was not a trial court. Biazon, on the other hand, said Ong would have to prove her allegations.

"She sounded credible but there are many gaps in her testimony that I would like her to explain," said Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Arroyo compared Ong to like Emma Lim, one of the controversial witnesses during the impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Blossoming Rosebud

Militants yesterday hailed Ong's testimony, saying that her "blossoming" exposé should give the Senate solid ground to pursue its investigation into Lacson's alleged illegal activities.

"The testimony of Mary Ong is not hard to believe. With evil incarnate at the helm of the Philippine National Police, Camp Crame could very well be the not-so-hidden hideout of the country's largest drug syndicate," Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said in a statement.

"The problem is not just caused by few bad eggs but a basket of rotten apples. Government itself, its very nook and cranny, is reeking with corruption. Total cleansing of government is an unarguable imperative," Fortaleza said.

Sanlakas called for the creation of an independent commission to look into the extent of corruption in government.

But Barbers, who chairs the public order and illegal drugs committee, said that the senators will continue the inquiry, and scheduled Monday as the next hearing.

Barbers also said the two-week recess of Congress starting Sept. 7 would give the National Bureau of Investigation and the justice department sufficient time to secure confirmation of bank accounts reportedly held by Lacson abroad.

Barbers said according to DOJ officials, the confirmation from the US Federal Bureau of investigation was expected to come "anytime now." *With a report from Andrea Trinidad-Echavez*

JESS YUSON

BAGFUL of documents consisting of airplane tickets is presented by Mary Ong to prove her frequent travels to Hong Kong as a PAOCTF undercover agent.

Who's Mary Ong?

(From page A1)

Both were already estranged from their respective spouses. She has two sons from her previous marriage.

"Colonel Campos was a trusted man of the Hong Kong police," recalls Mary who was then known as Lily Cheung, a "drug dealer" who enjoyed immunity from arrest granted by a HK magistrate.

"They (the syndicate) never doubted me because we bought the goods and paid on the spot. It was a clean deal," she says. Each deal was worth millions. The purpose was to penetrate the Triad, find their warehouses, identify the suppliers, dealers, couriers and, of course, the drug lords.

She had posed as a businesswoman from Manila with address in tony Greenhills, which was partly untrue. Actually, she had sold the Greenhills manse where she had lived with her ex-husband and was by then living in Parañaque.

Beatings

After five years, her relationship with John began to sour. "Actually he had been beating me, but since I loved him, I thought it would just go away," Mary says. But the beating got worse. In one of her lowest moments, Mary told another officer about John's problem with drugs. The officer warned John about Mary's complaint. In turn, she says, John beat her up again.

"He started compartmentalizing me," Mary complains. "It was breaking my heart." He was making himself scarce, too.

Still, their criminal activities kept them together. In early 1999, they abducted four Chinese and kept them in Mary's house in Parañaque. When John beat her up in front of the cops and the kidnap victims in her own house, Mary screamed: "You're all criminals!"

"I was already trying to make my way out," she continues. But there was a hitch. After five years of living in Mary's house, John had become a father figure to Mary's two sons. "They liked Tito John, and John loved my children. I prayed to the Lord to please make it easy on me," she says.

The break-up was far from easy. It was bloody and violent, and painfully protracted.

Meeting Lacson

Before she met John, Mary worked for then Chief Supt. Panfilo Lacson who headed Task Force Habagat. In the '80s, she was tramping the Manila-HK underworld coordinating the flow of dollars in the black market. She was arrested in 1992 and charged with drug trafficking before the Pasay City court. She claims she was framed by the Pueda brothers, who would themselves be killed during a shootout with fellow policemen.

She met Lacson sometime '92-'93 through a friend from the underworld.

"My friend asked me if I wanted to be an informer. He said since I have so much information to give, why not make money out of it?" She was delighted to meet Lacson. "I found him charming, clean-cut. But his connection with the Binondo Chinese was not so great," she recalls.

Education

While growing up in Binondo, Mary knew how it was to be poor. They were not rat poor, but they were not middle-class either. Mary's parents and two brothers lived in a two-story apartment along an *estero*. They didn't have a car. Mary's mother, however, saw education as the Big Hope. She sent Mary to the Immaculate Conception Academy (ICA) in Greenhills, where wealthy Chinese families sent their daughters for elementary and high school education. It was a long way from Binondo. Mary managed the distance by hitching a ride with her rich classmates.

"I'd wake up very early and wait in the garage of my classmates. I was always scared I'd be left behind," she recalls.

College at the University of Sto. Tomas was less arduous. It was also closer to home. Mary finished a degree in Economics and worked while taking up some units for her Masters in Business Administration (MBA). She found her first "employment" with the so-called Binondo Central Bank.

When the Marcoses fled in 1986, the Binondo Central Bank, which was run by Marcos cronies, suffered a slump. Mary had married, had a baby and moved to Greenhills. She persisted in the shadows as a *viajera*. To justify her frequent travels, she opened a garment store in Virra Mall. Her viajera days ended with her imprisonment in 1992. Hope came with Lacson in 1993. Then she met John Campos.

Safe house

Today, Mary lives in a "safe house" inside Camp Aguinaldo with her two sons, who adore her. Her sanctuary is a one-room affair with a bullet proof front door, a faux brass bed and a private toilet and bath. She moves around with a driver and at least two security men. Her sons go out with armed escorts from the Intelligence Services of the Armed Forces.

To date, she has filed or helped file assorted criminal cases against PAOCTF officers, including her former lover and accomplice John Campos.

Acop: She infiltrated us to ruin Ping, PNP

(From page A1)

Sen. Vicente Sotto III's Countryside Development Fund (CDF). *(See related story on Oplan Athena on this page.)*

Reacting to Acop's disclosure, Sotto yesterday said that he gave a portion of the fund to the Narcotics Command and the Dangerous Drugs Board from 1992 to 1998 to support the agencies' anti-drug campaign.

Sotto said the two agencies used the donations, among other things, to purchase computers for Narcom and support drug research, including the establishment of a marijuana research unit at the DDB.

He said he was able to spend the funds this way under the Ramos administration, but he stopped because the practice of using pork barrel funds in this way was discontinued.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said she saw no irregularity in Sotto's pork barrel contribution to the Philippine National Police anti-narcotics group.

"At that time there were no limitations on the use of the CDF," she said.

Boncodin said the Macapagal administration has issued guidelines on projects that can be funded from what is now called the Priority Development Assistance Fund.

She said the PDAF of legislators this year was allotted to infrastructure projects.

"I am proud to say I have supported the fight against illegal drugs since 1992," Sotto said in a phone interview.

"I don't give my funds to basketball courts and waiting sheds," he added.

'Triad insider'

Enraged by Ong's "sweeping charges" at the Senate hearing yesterday, Acop hastily called a news conference to defend himself, his men and Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"Mary Ong is an insider of the Chinese triad. Her main assignment was to sow intrigue within the PNP, discredit the police officials and the institution so that the triad can carry out the drug trade and kidnappings without let up," Acop said.

"The triad is now laughing at us."

Acop, former chief of the PNP Narcotics Command, said Senior Supt. Michael Ray Aquino, a close aide of Lacson, discovered that Ong was a triad insider.

"*Nabisto siya ni Ninoy* (Michael Ray) that she knew Shanghai Chua, the top leader of the triad," Acop said.

Chua and Ong, he said, were behind the kidnapping and murder of five Chinese drug lords—the same people who Ong alleged in her affidavit were "double crossed, kidnapped and murdered" by the Lacson-Acop group in 1998.

"Apart from the five Chinese drug lords that they double-crossed, Ong and Chua were behind the disappearance of seven other Chinese nationals, believed to be drug lords," Acop said. "Then, they would attribute their crimes to us."

Handiwork

Ong had said the first five victims were drug traffickers belonging to a Hong Kong triad and operating in the Philippines.

She alleged that they were targets of Lacson and his men's "Oplan Cyclops," the name for alleged surveillance, wiretapping and kidnapping operations.

Lacson allegedly ordered the arrest of the five Chinese nationals and seized 200 kilos of shabu that were later "recycled" and sold locally, Ong claimed.

But Acop said "the kidnapping and murder of these five Chinese nationals were the handiwork of Chua and Ong."

Chua was the boss of Zeng Jia Xuan, one of the alleged victims.

Ong denied knowing Chua personally, but confirmed that he was Zeng's boss.

She claimed that Lacson and Acop made it appear that Chua had kidnapped Zeng in Baguio City, and then ordered Aquino to ask Senior Supt. Glen Dumlao to stage a rescue operation.

Chua was killed in an alleged shootout with Lacson's group in July 2000, Ong said.

Building a case

Asked why he did not immediately order the arrest of Ong upon learning she was working for the triad, Acop said, "we were already building up a case against her. We first tried to isolate her to determine her ties with the triad. When she sensed *bistado na siya* (that we were on to her), she started making up stories and threw the dirt that she and Chua did at us."

Acop branded Ong's testimony as a "mere zarzuela intended to malign Lacson and to discredit the entire PNP."

"It's preposterous. Ong's testimony was a desperate attempt to link Lacson to the drug trade to justify (Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Col. Victor) Corpus' charges that the senator was implicated in money laundering," Acop said. "It's a grand design to demolish Lacson to suit the political ends of other groups."

"What she is doing is dangerous," he said.

'Unstable'

The former Narcom chief described Ong as "unstable" and said she "tried to commit suicide three times when her ex-lover Col. John Campos tried to leave her for another woman."

"She is nothing but a woman scorned. Before she came out in the open, she asked me to fire Campos. When I refused . . . she started hurling serious charges against us, knowing later on that these crimes that she was attributing to us were committed by her and the triad," Acop said.

Lacson also denied Ong's charges, repeating that "I've never been involved in drugs."

He said: "I have no connection with Mary Ong. My only dealings with her was when she became a walk-in informant while I was head of the Task Force Habagat between 1993 to 1994."

He also denied Ong's charges that Acop had turned over illegal drug earnings to him.

Lacson said he would not attend the next Senate hearing, saying that there has been no "worthy evidence" presented by his accusers so far.

In reaction to a P2-million check that he issued to Ong, allegedly as down payment for a drug purchase from Hong Kong, Acop said he gave her the check to help her to pay off a mortgage.

When he learned that the property in question was already foreclosed and that it was too late to save it, Acop decided not to fund the check, he said.

The P2 million was supposed to have come from the P7.5-million budget that was allotted for the "Project Athena," Acop said. *With reports from Christine Avendaño, Armand N. Nocum and Juliet Javellana*

'Erap didn't listen to me, instead he gave me ₱3M'

(From page A1)

sible police authority or anyone from the Department of Justice or the National Bureau of Investigation."

"This confirms my belief that Erap was the benefactor and patron of the Kuratong Baleleng," he said.

Devnani also cited supposed conversations with the late basketball star Arnulfo Tuadles and "Kuratong Baleleng No. 2 man" Joel Arnan wherein they said Lacson "ordered" the 1995 killing of 11 suspected members of the gang.

He quoted them as saying that "the Kuratong Baleleng wanted to assassinate Erap and Ping because of the rubout" but that negotiations between the gang and Estrada's emissary Eddie Boy Villanueva averted this.

"The deal that was brokered was the Kuratong Baleleng would be allowed to kidnap for ransom, and the group of Atong and Ping would supply the victims," he said.

Lacson, however, yesterday dismissed Devnani's claims, saying that like other witnesses Mary "Rosebud" Ong and Angelo "Ador" Mawanay, Devnani was also engaged in estafa.

"They can easily concoct stories . . . They're all lying," Lacson said.

Devnani also said Ang and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. official Butch Tenorio were "responsible" for the disappearance of casino employee Edgar Bentain.

It was Bentain who supposedly leaked a videotape of Estrada and Ang gambling weeks before the 1998 presidential election.

High rollers

For lack of time, Devnani did not get the chance to testify at yesterday's hearing conducted by the Senate public order, national defense and blue ribbon committees. He was asked to report to the next hearing set on Monday.

But in his affidavit, he was able to elaborate on what he described last week as the "dissolute" life he led as a member of Estrada's inner circle.

He said it was Ang who got him hooked on gambling in 1996, which ultimately forced him in 1998 to close a garments business that, at its peak, was making $4-5 million annually in gross sales and employed about 100 regular employees and up to 2,000 subcontractors.

Devnani said that in the four years of his association with Ang, he lost about P100 million in almost daily gambling. He said he still had unpaid obligations of about P1.4 million to the Super VIP casino.

He also said that in those times:

- Estrada lost P1-3 million a night, and "most of the time, (Ang) gives him money for gambling."
- Ang lost between P60 million and P100 million in one night at the Heritage Hotel "on several occasions."
- The smallest amount that Ang would lose was P20 million in one sitting.
- There were instances when he would find Estrada and Ang gambling with Tony Gana and Frank Puzon "from the previous night until the next day."

"I am now convinced that I was induced to go into high-stakes gambling by Atong, to become vulnerable and exposed to illegal activities, including kidnapping for ransom," Devnani said.

"Looking back, I believe that they knew I could be useful to them in their kidnapping for ransom activities. They knew I had connections with the rich people in the business community in the Philippines," he said.

Devnani also said that "while the Philippines suffers economically, the people responsible for this misfortune are now enjoying the fruits of their crimes."

He added: "Atong is now in the United States enjoying his loot. Ping Lacson is now a senator. The injustice must be corrected. I am motivated by my love for the truth that is present in all of us, no matter how (belatedly) we may realize it."

'Kailangan ng pera'

Devnani said it was at the members-only Club 419 in February or March 1996 that Ang first invited him to engage in kidnapping for ransom.

He quoted Ang as saying that the election was approaching and Estrada was running for president. "*Kailangan ng pera* (Money is needed)," Ang supposedly said.

He said he offered to introduce Estrada to the Indian and Chinese communities, which could be tapped for contributions, but that Ang said this would not be enough.

This was how Devnani related the circumstances of the kidnapping and release of the brother of his businessman-friend:

Devnani received a call from his friend—also "a friend of Erap"—one night between November and December 1996 informing him of the kidnapping and asking for his help.

When he called Ang, the latter "just laughed" and asked whether he could become the "negotiator" for the victim and cooperate lest the victim be killed.

Ang told him to wait for the kidnapper's call and to report everything that had occurred.

Devnani did as he was told. "When I told him I was already in the area, he asked me if the victim could pay a ransom of $2 million."

He said the kidnappers also called up later and demanded the same amount. They were told that the family did not have that much money.

Later, the family called another friend, who suggested to Devnani that he seek advice from Tony Gana, a former general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority and then connected with the defunct Presidential Anti-Crime Commission.

When Devnani told this to Ang, the latter said Gana was "OK" and "*atin* (ours)." But Ang offered to go to the victim's house himself, and when he arrived, he introduced himself as a "PACC agent and a friend of Erap."

While in the victim's house, Ang received a call from Estrada on his cellular phone.

"He even showed to me and the victim's brother his cell phone identifying the caller as Erap. He said, 'See, Erap is calling.' He walked to the lanai of the house to talk to Erap."

They then proceeded to negotiate for the amount of the ransom.

"Atong said he had to get rid of the victim because he has another kidnapping operation coming and agreed to P50 million instead."

Any amount

This was how Devnani proceeded with his narration:

When told a day later that the family could not raise the P50 million, Ang replied: "*Kahit magkano na lang* (Any amount will do)."

They settled for P30 million, but the family could raise only P27 million. Ang agreed to lend the victim's family P3 million.

It was agreed that Devnani and Ang would deliver the money to the kidnappers. They put the money in two big traveling bags and loaded these in Devnani's car.

Ang later told Devnani to meet him at his house "somewhere in the Corinthian Gardens."

There, Ang ordered his boys to take the bags from Devnani's car and into his house.

Ang gave Devnani a two-way radio—the former's call sign was "1-5" and the latter's, "7-5." Devnani proceeded to the Whistlestop restaurant.

It was there that Devnani saw Joel Arnan, who asked him where the money was. When told that it was with "1-5," the kidnappers released the victim to him. *With a report from Armand Nocum*

Successful 3rd Batang Pinoy seen

SELF-RELIANCE in marketing and managing their respective events by the various national sports associations (NSAs) involved will spell a bigger success for the 3rd Batang Pinoy sportsfest.

LIM

This was bared yesterday by Philippine Sports Commissioner Amparo "Weena" Lim as she stressed the need for the strengthening of marketing strategies that will be attained for the Batang Pinoy concept its maximum potential.

Lim explained this new thrust—and its viability—to various NSA representatives during the recent Sports Management and Marketing Course and Lecturer's Seminar at the PSC building.

According to Lim, NSAs being able to generate sponsorships from the private sector will translate to more tournaments. And with more tournaments, more children will surely get into sports.

Competition breeds excellence, said Lim. "We believe that the ideal picture is for year-round tournaments or qualifiers to be held before the big event. This way, we will be able to promote the sport as well as develop athletes."

The Batang Pinoy project of the Philippine Sports Commission is one of the grassroots sports programs for Filipino kids 12 years old and below. In the long term, it is envisioned to serve as a venue for talent search.

The national finals will be held Dec. 1-7 in San Fernando, Pampanga with 13 events on tap.

The seminars, aside from those scheduled to be held in Metro Manila, will be brought to different provinces like Baguio, Bacolod and Davao down south.

Experts on sports management and marketing are being commissioned to conduct the nationwide seminars.

"Marketing is really a big aspect. We are investing time and effort in ensuring the NSAs are well equipped with such skills since in the long run, they can use them not just for the Batang Pinoy but for their other events."

Maryknoll grabs Go-for-Goal plum

BANAYBANAY, Davao Oriental—Maryknoll School regained the Davao Oriental Coke Go-for-Goal under-16 football title Monday, nipping arch-rival Lupon School of Fisheries, 1-0, at the Banaybanay National School field here.

Vinzon Lim eluded two defenders after receiving a pass from Carl Alec Magno from the right corner and struck from six yards in the 47th minute to enable Maryknoll to avenge a 1-2 loss to Lupon School of Fisheries in last year's finals.

With its fourth title, Maryknoll advanced to the all-Davao sub-regional finals slated Nov. 9-11 in Davao City. Also vying in the Davao event are the winners of the Davao City, Davao Norte and Compostela Valley eliminations of the tourney sponsored by Coca-Cola with Adidas as official ball.

Host Banaybanay National High clinched third spot by blanking Mati Comprehensive High, 3-0.

Over in Davao City, former University of Mindanao player Jason Mortillero scored all goals as Rizal Memorial Colleges plastered the UM Maroons, 4-2, to gain a semifinal seat.

Jerico Basan and Nexion Gabutero scored the goals for UM, which failed to enter the semis only for the third time in 12 local Coke Go-for-Goal elims.

The other semifinals are Dona Carmen High and host Daniel Aguinaldo High.

BEST classes slated at Ateneo

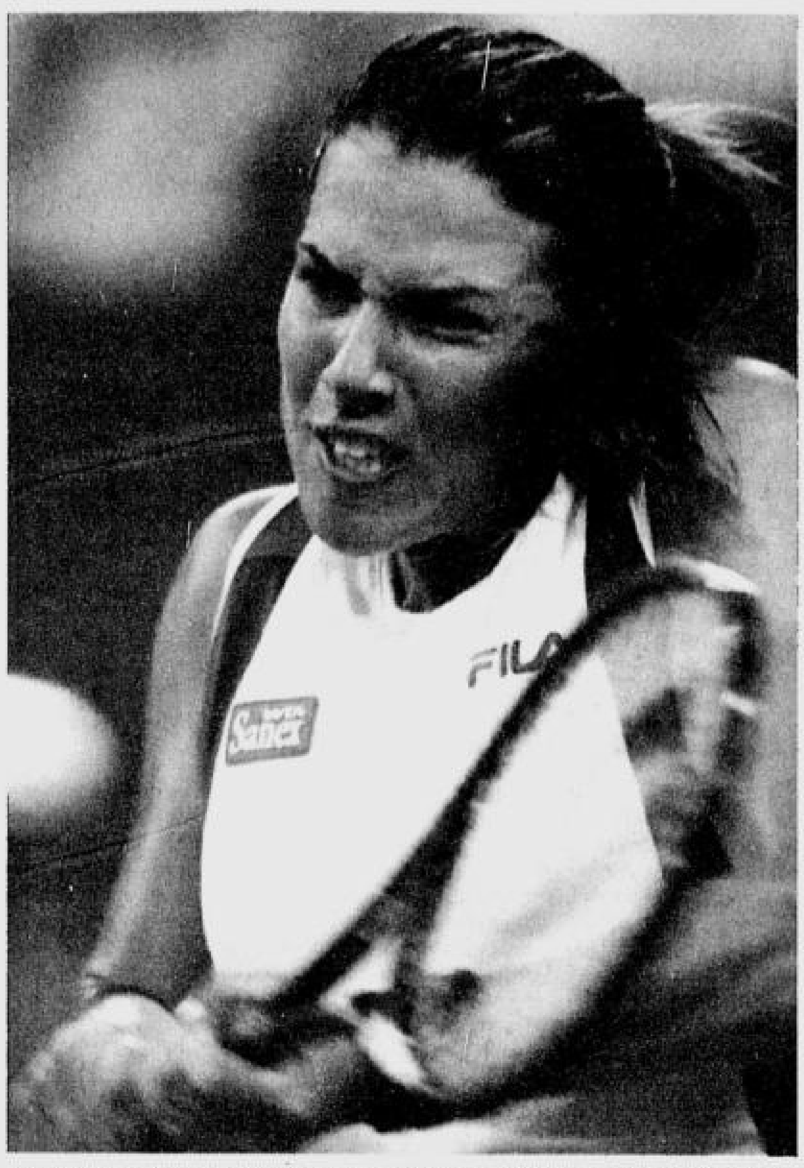
MILO BEST Center announced yesterday the staging of another set of Saturday-and Sunday-only basketball classes at Ateneo College covered courts and St. Benedict College, respectively.

Level 1, 2, 3, 4 and refresher sessions are slated every Saturday at Ateneo from Sept. 1 to Oct. 20, while level 1 and 2 clinics are billed every Sunday at St. Benedict College from Sept. 2 to Oct. 21.

For more details, interested parties may call The BEST Center, 34 Scout Lozano, QC, tel. nos. 372-3065/66 and 411-6260 or Dansei Groom Shop/Sensei Salon, 5th Floor, Holiday Inn Manila, UN Avenue tel. nos. 525-8191 and 524-9311.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

Bataan makes chess semifinals


JENNIFER Capriati of the United States returns a shot to Amanda Hopmans of the Netherlands during yesterday's first-round play in the US Open in New York. Capriati beat Hopmans, 6-2, 6-1. AP

DEFENDING champion Bataan (Governor's Office) settled for a 2-2 draw in the seventh and last round but still made it to the crossover semifinals in the 2001 Inter Provincial Class Championship at the People's Center here.

Cavite also completed its amazing run to make a run for the title.

Mt. Province, bannered by GM Eugene Torre, and Rizal also made it to the next round after collecting five points apiece.

Getting a boost from its 3-1 win over Tarlac in the sixth round, the Joey Antonio-led Bataan settled for a draw with Bohol in the seventh to round out its campaign with 5.5 points, the same score collected by Cavite.

Antonio, the same player who led Bataan to the title in last year's edition of the inter-provincial meet in Davao City, downed Jeffrey Nool, while Edmundo Gatus defeated Edwin Dimarucut on Board 4 to anchor Bataan's victory in the sixth round.

Gatus, however, lost in the seventh round to Bohol's Demetrius Rivera, but draws by Antonio and deaf-mute Liolen Tubianosa and a rousing win by IM Barlo Nadera in Board 2 were enough to cushion the defeat and send Bataan to another hunt for the title and the P100,000 cash prize in this tournament organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines hosted by the province of Bataan.

Cavite was just as devastating.

Its stint supported here by Gov. Ayong Maliksi, the foursome of NM Petronio Roca, NM Ben Flores, Jose Manabdang and Roel Abelgas crushed Laguna (Testech) in the sixth round, before agreeing to a four-man draw with Mt. Province in the final round of the eliminations.

The four semifinalists begin their crossover semifinal battles today, with Rizal taking on Bataan and Cavite colliding with Mt. Province.

Bohol, Tarlac and Zambales (Navy) ended up tied for fifth to seventh places, respectively, and will take home P8,000 each plus a trophy.

Cavite (Navy) and Iloilo took the eighth and ninth places and won P5,000 each, while Catanduanes, South Cotabato, Batangas, Laguna (Testech) and La Union finished in a tie for 10th to 14th places. They won P1,000 each.

Checkmate at Festival

ENROLLMENT for the first series of Milo Checkmate Sunday clinic at Festival Supermall will be held on Sept. 2. The clinic will officially start on Sept. 9 at the mall's 4th Level Bridgehall Way near SMART and Jollibee from 1:30-5 p.m. Last batch of enrollees will be accepted until Sept. 16. For more details, call 826-8560 or 0919-331-0206.

Sampras, Venus, Capriati advance

NEW YORK—Pete Sampras fought off the upset bid of Frenchman Julien Boutter, winning a battle of big serves on center court and taking a first step to ending his 17-tournament losing streak.

Sampras won 6-4, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (6) in 2 1/2 hours on Tuesday, producing some quality tennis and overcoming temperatures reaching 87 degrees Fahrenheit (31 degrees Celsius).

Other top players advancing to the second round Tuesday included Lleyton Hewitt and Roger Federer on the men's side, and Jennifer Capriati, Venus Williams and Kim Clijsters in the women's draw.

Sampras, without a tournament title since capturing a record 13th Grand Slam title at Wimbledon a year ago, came in seeded 10th, uncharacteristically low for a player of his stature.

He played better than that - and he had to against Boutter, who challenged him throughout but was felled finally by his own mistakes. He had 10 double faults and 30 unforced errors compared with just two and 17 for Sampras.

Sampras, a four-time Open champion who lost last year's final in straight sets to Marat Safin, played tennis reminiscent of his old days, pulling off 25 aces, winners that nailed the sidelines and a stretch of eight-straight first serves that connected in the second set.

He forced that set to a tiebreaker, which he punctuated with two service winners and two aces. Then Sampras finished off the set with a 132-mph (212-kph) serve for his 10th ace of the match. He would finish with 18. *AP*

Gutierrez, Anton close in on crowns

SUBIC—Monching Gutierrez and Carlos Anton of Gulf Oil-MP turbo topped their respective categories as expected to strengthen their bid for the overall championships in the SVI Challenge Cup of the Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway.

Gutierrez, one of five mainstays of Gulf Oil-MP Turbo, defeated Oscar Aguilar of Caltex and Tom Pastor of Team TEC in the only completed race to virtually wrap up the overall title in the annual series organized by Sports Values, Inc. (SVI) and sponsored by Petron Corp.

The win enabled Gutierrez to pull away in the overall standings with 92 points, 44 points ahead of Pastor with only three rounds remaining in the 14-part series.

The multi-talented son of actor Eddie Gutierrez and singer Pilita Corrales has now won all but three rounds in the series.

Anton outlasted George Apacible of Gulf Oil-MP Turbo in the 11th round and Carlo Pastor of Team TEC in the 12th round to widen his lead in the production car championship.

The Baguio-based Anton has 96 points against 58 points of Mikko David of Caltex and Carlo Pastor of Team TEC.

RLB championship round on

MANDALUYONG Coliseum's "Annual RLB 7-Stag Derby" enters its championship round beginning at 5 p.m. today, bannering more than 50 quality fights. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug Inc.

From a field of 56, five entries posted a perfect score of three points each in last Tuesday's qualifying round. These are Altuz (Atty. Ram Lopez), Araneta 7-Stag Sept. 24-26 (Gov. Ito Ynares), BTR (Mayor Bunoy Ramos), Jobo (Lito Orillaza) and LTD Super Ebete (Lope Dorado). Patrick Antonio's Pampanga Coliseum Sept. 29 has 2.5 points while 18 other entries have 2 points each.

To follow immediately is the "Ratratan 6-Stag Derby" hosted by Muroy Dolorico and Ramon Mencenares on Sept. 4 and 6.

Stags that are wingbanded by Pagba, Ucap, Migba, NGBA and GF-BAN are accepted to join but subject for re-classification. For farm-to-farm screening, interested parties may contact Mencenares at 951-5078 (farm) or 0917-4531276 and Dolorico at 049-5621551 or 0917-3947794.

Suico will fall in 6–Australian champ

NEWLY arrived Australian junior lightweight champion Karim Nashar said yesterday that his celebrated battle with Philippine champion Randy Suico will "end in six rounds" and that he will be "the last man standing" in the blockbuster fight card K.O. in Antipolo at the Ynares Center in Antipolo, tomorrow.

The Australian has been likened to Prince Naseem Hamed because both have similar fighting style.

"Suico is tall and has a good punch and doesn't run," said Nashar. "It would be interesting to see how he reacts to being hit back."

Nashar has scored 9 knockouts in his 14 wins. Suico is undefeated in 14 fights with 12 knockouts.

The Suico-Nashar bout scheduled for 12 is an elimination fight to decide the challenger of OPBF champion Tiger Ari of the Philippines. Ari is now rated No. 4 by the WBC.

Former WBA minimum weight champion Joma Gamboa (30-6-1, 21 KOs), in a tune-up fight prior to a promised crack at the world title against Japan's newly crowned champion Yutaka Niida, clashes with Thai No. 3 Samransak Singmarassak over 10 rounds.

Flashy Cebuano KO artist Rodel Mayol, RP No. 1 minimum weight who is unbeaten in seven fights with six knockouts, takes on rugged Thai No. 2 Pigmy Muangchaiya.

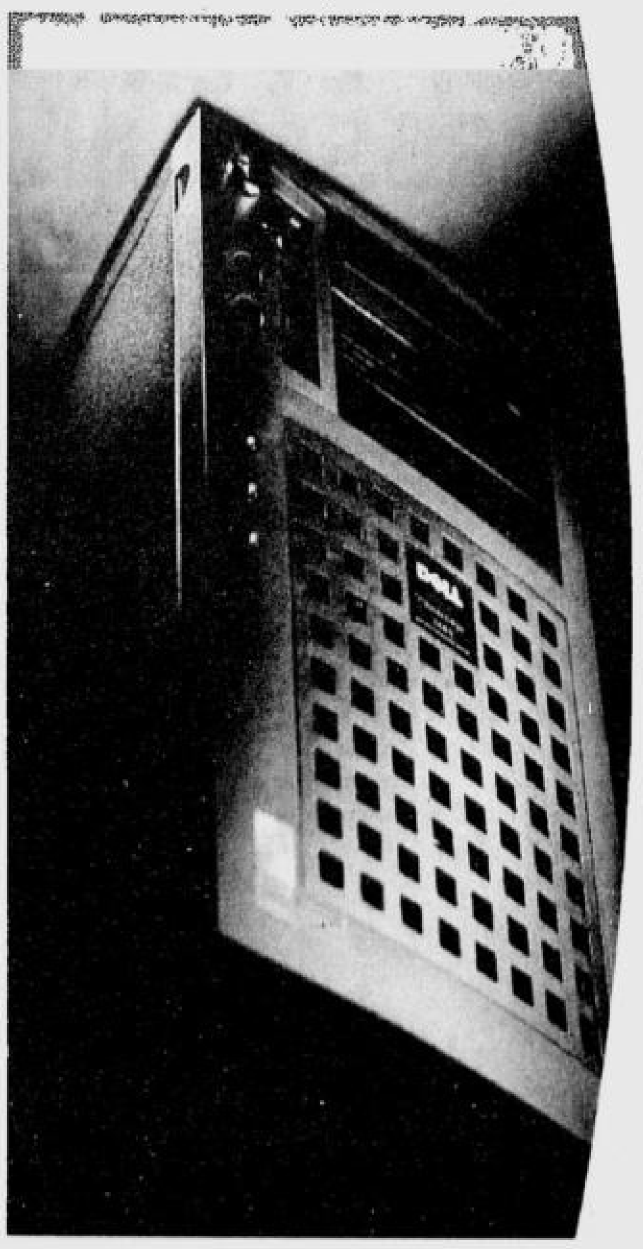
Another Cebu fighter, veteran Noel Tunacao (34-5-2, 15 KOs), will face the fight of his life against former world champion Songkram Porpaoin (20-2-1, 11 KOs).

Rahman, Lewis hype Nov. 17 rematch

BALTIMORE—Four months after Hasim Rahman brought home two world heavyweight titles, he treated his city to some Las Vegas showmanship.

Rahman and Lennox Lewis squared off Tuesday at City Hall in a courtroom drama staged to hype their Nov. 17 rematch at Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino in Las Vegas.

Mayor Martin O'Malley played defense attorney for the city's latest hometown sports hero, and promoter Don King presided, wearing black robes that contrasted sharply with his gray hair. *AP*



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RP TEAM TO SEAG

It should be Red Bull, not SMB—Jong

By June Navarro

SAN Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico yesterday expressed surprise on reports regarding the Beermen's possible stint in the Southeast Asian Games.

"Of course it's an honor for us to represent the country in the SEA Games. But as far as I know, we never really talked about it," Uichico told the INQUIRER.

Yet he added that if there's a team which will be chosen by the PBA to don the national colors, it would probably be Batang Red Bull.

"They are the champions and there's no question on their capability to defend our title in the games," said Uichico, whose Beermen lost to the Thunder during their Commissioner's Cup Finals confrontation.

San Miguel Beer and Red Bull are the teams being tipped to represent the country in the SEA Games slated Sept. 8-17 in Kuala Lumpur.

The PBA Board of Governors has given the green light to send one of its teams to the sportsfest during its board meeting Monday night.

The board left the discretion on which team to send at the hands of the PBA Commissioner's Office.

Plans, however, remained hanging in the balance as the International Basketball Federation has yet to lift its suspension on the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Emissaries from the Fiba and the International Olympic Committee will arrive over the weekend to preside over the BAP elections on Sunday, a move which sports officials hope will end the eight-month-old leadership squabble in the ailing association.

But once chosen, Uichico believes the Beermen are capable of bringing home the bacon despite the amateur rules that will be applied in the biennial meet.

"It's been a while since I coached in the amateur ranks. I guess we have to cram and adjust to the amateur style of play," he added.

Uichico and his Beermen will resume practice on Monday next week. But as of now, he said they are trying to recuperate from the wounds inflicted by the Thunder.

UICHICO

Sudden surge of nationalism

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

SUDDENLY, there is an abundance of patriotic banners ready to be unfurled. This is the time of year when a surge of nationalism is sweeping the sporting landscape.

How nice. Heart-tugging even.

Who said the country's bid to defend the basketball crown in Kuala Lumpur is dead?

Look again, fellas, and you'll see them coming forward, trying to outdo one another in the rush to capture what now appears to be sports' hottest property: the right to represent the country in the Southeast Asian Games basketball competition.

The Philippine Basketball Association, which in the past hardly had any interest in playing in the SEA Games, stunned us the other day by announcing its desire to field either PBA Commissioner's Cup champion Batang Red Bull or San Miguel Beer, winner of five of the last seven PBA championships, for the KL trip.

Even before the PBA spoke, Red Bull owner George Chua had volunteered his Thunder to defend the SEA Games crown in Kuala Lumpur next month. And yesterday, it was the turn of Jong Uichico, the SMB coach, to play hero, albeit, on another plane. He said he was giving way to Red Bull.

Jong told our June Navarro: "Of course it's an honor for us to represent the country in the SEA Games. But if there's a team deserving of the honor to play in Kuala Lumpur, it is Red Bull. They are the champions."

But actually, it was the Metropolitan Basketball Association which first tried to come to the rescue. Already the proud owner of the SEABA crown stashed away some weeks back, the MBA has, time and again, reiterated its readiness to play in Kuala Lumpur.

And how about the Philippine Basketball League?

My suggestion is, the PBL should stay out of it. No point joining the fray as it will just lead to a mismatch, if not an outright comedy.

To be honest, I'm not giving the whole idea a serious thought. N'yet. The task at hand is to resolve the status of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, the body authorized to select the team for the Games. Will it be over by Sunday? Whether it's Literal or Puyat, it doesn't matter. What matters, or what's paramount at the moment, is the restoration of the country's right to defend its basketball crown in Kuala Lumpur.

The rest is mere gravy.

Zed-MP Team drivers dominate field in Subic

THE EXPERIENCED Zed-Gulf Oil-MP Turbo Racing Team set a new record in dominating the rain-soaked Subic Grand Prix Series last weekend.

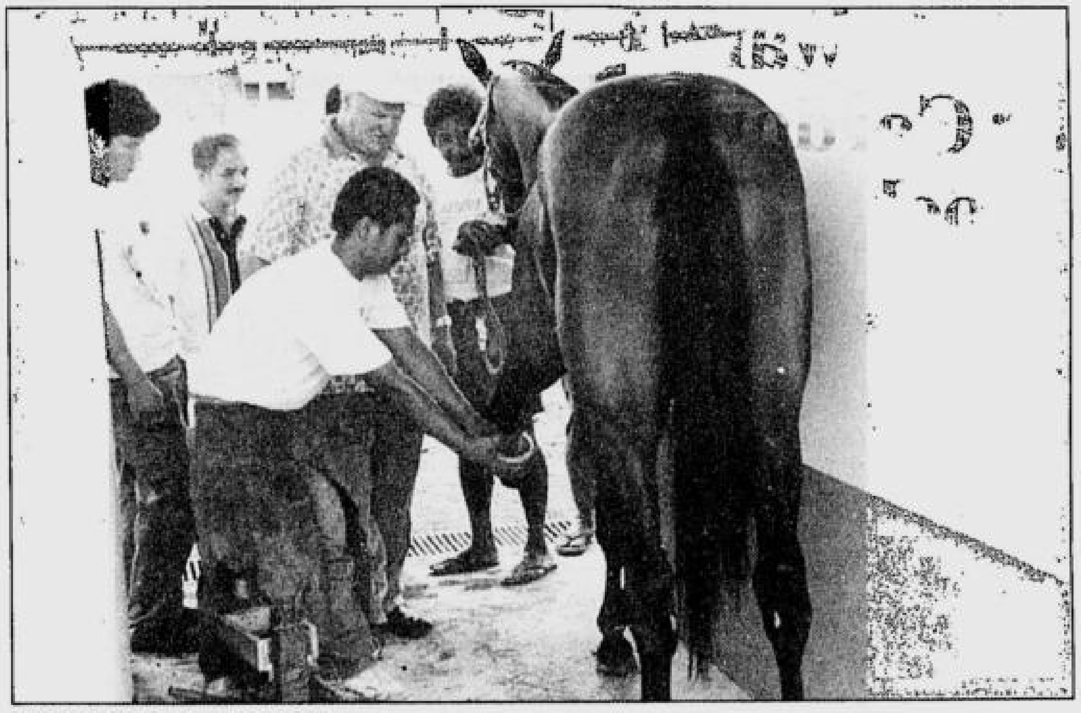
By winning five out of the six races, the Zed-Gulf Oil-MP Turbo Racing Team attained super team status, with drivers Mike Potenciano, Carlos Anton and Monching Gutierrez all topping their respective classes.

With the wins, the team emerged champion in the Subic-SVI Production and Challenge Cup classes.

Supported by Zed, the world's largest mobile internet service provider and Gulf Oil, one of the world's oldest lubricant specialists and celebrating 100 years in service, the team is also backed by BLTBCo, Francisco Motors Corp., Gomaking Trading, Abante Newspaper, Yehey.com, AER Engines/ATI Diesel, Rota Wheels and Bavarian Machine Works.

Zed team leader and San Pablo driver Potenciano was the toast of the town when he topped the dry qualifying session last Saturday with a time of 1:35.9 seconds. In Sunday's morning's races, Potenciano finished a close second to Ferdie Ong after a problem with his brakes that kept locking in the wet conditions. With a change of brake pads for the afternoon's race, Potenciano finished in first place after a big incident with Ong and a fast approaching Kookie Ramirez in the end.

"We were very lucky to have stayed on the wet course in these two races," explained Mike after the race. "In the first race, I learned later that Nilo Pazcoguin went off because he avoided a collision with me in the fast back straight and in the second, Ferdie Ong tried to bump me off the course going to the hairpin."



SHOEING A HORSE

Australian master farrier Albert G.T. O'Cass gives out instructions on the finer points of correct shoeing a horse during a recent hands-on seminar on the farrier trade at the Manila Jockey Club Inc. O'Cass and Australian steward John A. Haigh are currently in the country to conduct a series of seminars on race stewardship and the farrier industry for the benefit of the industry's direct players organized by the Philippine Racing Commission with the support of the Pagcor and the PCSO.

10 YEARS AGO

THE PHILIPPINES defeated North Korea, 87-86, to keep its hope for a slot alive in the four-team semifinals at the ABC men's basketball championship in Kobe, Japan. Marlou Aquino sank his 2 free throws, 3 seconds remaining, to seal the win.

RACING TIPS

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Race 2—1. Dona Evelyn 2. Portal Dancer 3. Maniaman 4. Hingis

Race 3—1. Regimental Lass 2. Great Year 3. Venus 4. High Fidelity 5. Baby My Beloved

Race 4—1. Spectacular Queen 2. Speed Day 3. Melodic Symphony 4. Golden Child

Race 5—1. Power Pack 2. Gemstone 3. Noble Regent 4. Gutmoore 5. Ysabela 6. Avalanche

Race 6—1. Maayo Sigaw 2. Gifted Angel 3. High Pitch 4. Samahan

Race 7—1. Woman's Task 2. Enseguida 3. Sweet Justice 4. Heavy Metal 5. Earth Angel

Race 8—1. Emancipated Belle 2. Real McCoy 3. Typhoon Belle 4. High and Mighty

Race 9—1. Race for Gold 2. As for Me/Perfect Gift 3. Uzisaki 4. Talk to Patsy 5. Snowy Market 6. Timeless Beauty

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Cardinals battle Blazers today

MAPUA Tech aims to disentangle itself from a second-place impasse when the Cardinals face defending champion College of St. Benilde today in NCAA basketball at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. Touting a similar 6-3 card with San Sebastian College, the Cardinals will try to repeat over the Blazers, whom they shamed 66-60 in the first round. Game time is 1:30 p.m. prior to the battle between University of Perpetual Help-Rizal and San Beda College, the league's newest whipping boy at 1-8.

SPORTS

Al S. Mendoza, Editor ■ **Edwin M. Villanueva**, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV

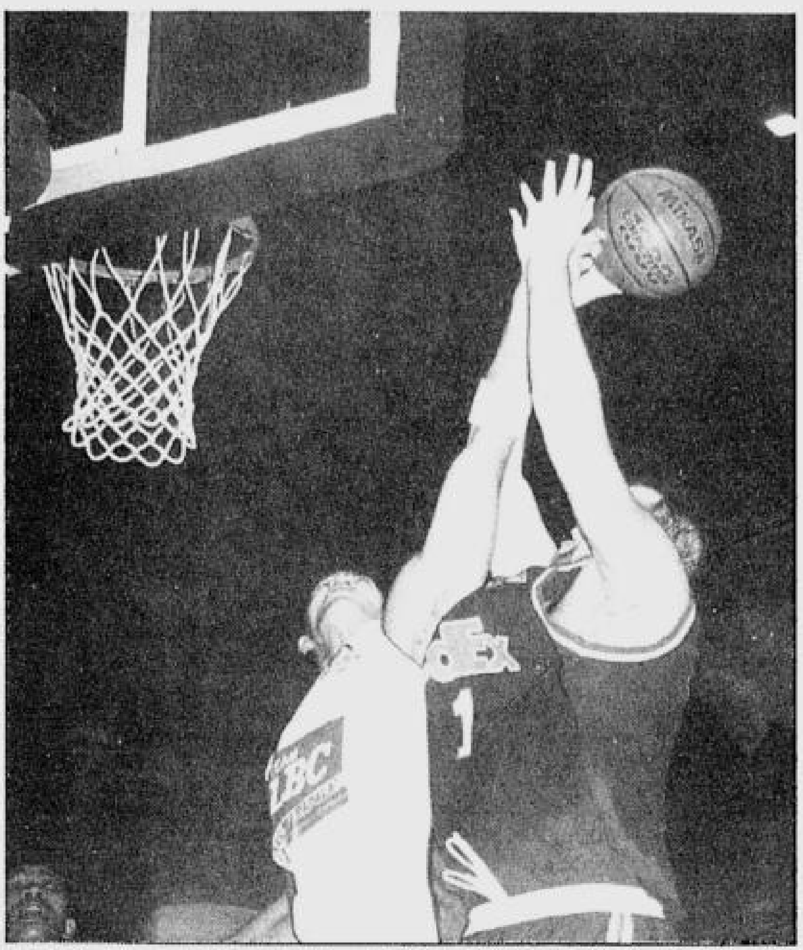
Compiled By Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: US Open 2001, Men's First Round, Women's Second Round at 7 a.m. (r – 7 p.m.) and 10:30 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: LPGA Bank of Montreal Canadian Women's Open, Third Round at 12 noon on ESPN

Ford Senior Players Championships, Final Round at 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

BASEBALL: Wednesday Night Baseball at 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. on ESPN



LBC Batangas' Romel Adducul (left) blocks FedEx Laguna's Jeff Flowers during the MBA First Phase recently. The league's premiere centers resume their rivalry tomorrow when the Blades and the Lakers collide in the MBA Second Phase inaugurals at the San Juan Gym.

MBA 2nd Phase opens tomorrow in San Juan

By Roy Luarca

THE MBA Second Phase opens tomorrow, but will take a break if its players are tapped to represent the country in the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games

Inaugural games pit Nueva Ecija against Socsargen, teams which got booted out in the First Phase, at 3 p.m. and LBC Batangas against FedEx Laguna at 5 p.m. at the San Juan Gym.

The tournament also serving as the national finals continues on Sunday with Cebuana Lhuillier tackling Nueva Ecija and LBC Batangas facing Socsargen at the Tinga Gym in Taguig.

MBA director for business development Ramon Tuason said the tournament would take a break if the MBA selection, which topped the Southeast Asia Basketball Association championship early this year, is tasked by the Philippine Olympic Committee to carry the country's colors in the biennial games.

In such a case, games scheduled from Sept. 9-16 will be moved to Nov. 4-11. Games set on Sept. 5 and 7, on the other hand, will be moved to Nov. 14 and 16.

Format calls for the eight competing teams to play in a double round robin to determine which teams advance to the national playoffs. The top three teams from the North and South conferences enter the conference semifinals, where the No. 1 qualifiers draw byes and the lower ranked teams clash in best-of-three playoffs.

The conference finals will be a best-of-five affair, after which the North champion tangle with the South titlist in a best-of-seven series for the national championship.

All teams will start from scratch in the second phase, which will also feature First Phase winner Andok's San Juan, Negros and Davao.

Tuason added that some MBA games couldn't be televised live because of the commitment of the carrying station, National Broadcasting Network (formerly PTV 4), to air the Philippine participation in the SEAG.

Members of the MBA selection are LBC Batangas' Romel Adducul, Peter Martin and Eddie Laure; Andok's San Juan's Chris Calaguio, Chito Victolero and Omanzie Rodriguez, Negros' John Ferriols and Ruben dela Rosa, Cebuana Lhuillier's Homer Se and Stephen Padilla, Socsargen's Egay Echavez and FedEx Laguna's Junel Mendiola. Coach is Boyzie Zamar of Socsargen with FedEx Laguna's Bong Ramos as his deputy.

Bulldogs, Tigers dispute 3rd place at Loyola Gym

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	9	1
Ateneo	7	2
NU	5	4
UE	5	5
FEU	5	5
UST	4	5
UP	3	7
Adamson	0	9

By Dennis U. Eroa

Games Today (Loyola Gym)
10:30 a.m.—NU vs UST (Jrs)
12:30 p.m.—Ateneo vs AdU (Jrs)
2:30 p.m.—NU vs UST (Srs)
5:00 p.m.-Ateneo vs AdU (Srs)

FOCUS will be on the crucial National University-University of Santo Tomas game as the race for Final Four slots heats up in the UAAP men's basketball championship today at the Loyola Gym.

Duplicating their 83-80 first round win over the Tigers will be foremost in the minds of the Bulldogs, who find themselves in solo third place after two days of upsets with a 5-4 win-loss slate.

The España-based dribblers are riding high on their 62-55 stunner over the Ateneo Blue Eagles last Saturday. A victory by UST will create a four-way logjam for third place since University of the East and skidding Far Eastern U sport identical 5-5 records.

UAAP waits for Cardona school records

By June Navarro

UAAP president Anton Montinola of FEU said the board would render a final decision on La Salle's Mark Cardona once it secures a copy of the controversial swingman's records from Carson High in California.

"We are waiting for Cardona's official transcript of records and upon receipt the board will compare it with the photocopies that La Salle submitted last Friday," said Montinola after emerging from the board's meeting at the Casino Español de Manila Tuesday night.

La Salle officials were not present during the two-hour gathering.

Dean Gilda Uy of UP confirmed during the meeting that Carson High already sent the documents via airmail over the weekend. The UAAP is expected to receive the documents before weekend.

Montinola said Uy coordinated with Jeff Davis, Carson's assistant principal, to furnish the league a copy of Cardona's record certified by the school's registrar.

Montinola noted the documents that La Salle submitted to the board bear no seal but a copy of which was shown to the INQUIRER proved otherwise.

Also, all entries on the documents were computer generated from Sept.1996 to Sept. 1998 except for the last months that Cardona spent in Carson High, which were hand-written.

"Before presenting those documents to the media, La Salle should have shown them to the board first," said Montinola, who stressed the papers that La Salle furnished were all photocopies.

Montinola, however, declined to comment whether the board would apply its recent ruling on eligibility with respect to foreign athletes.

"Let's just wait for the documents and then the board will take it from there," he added.

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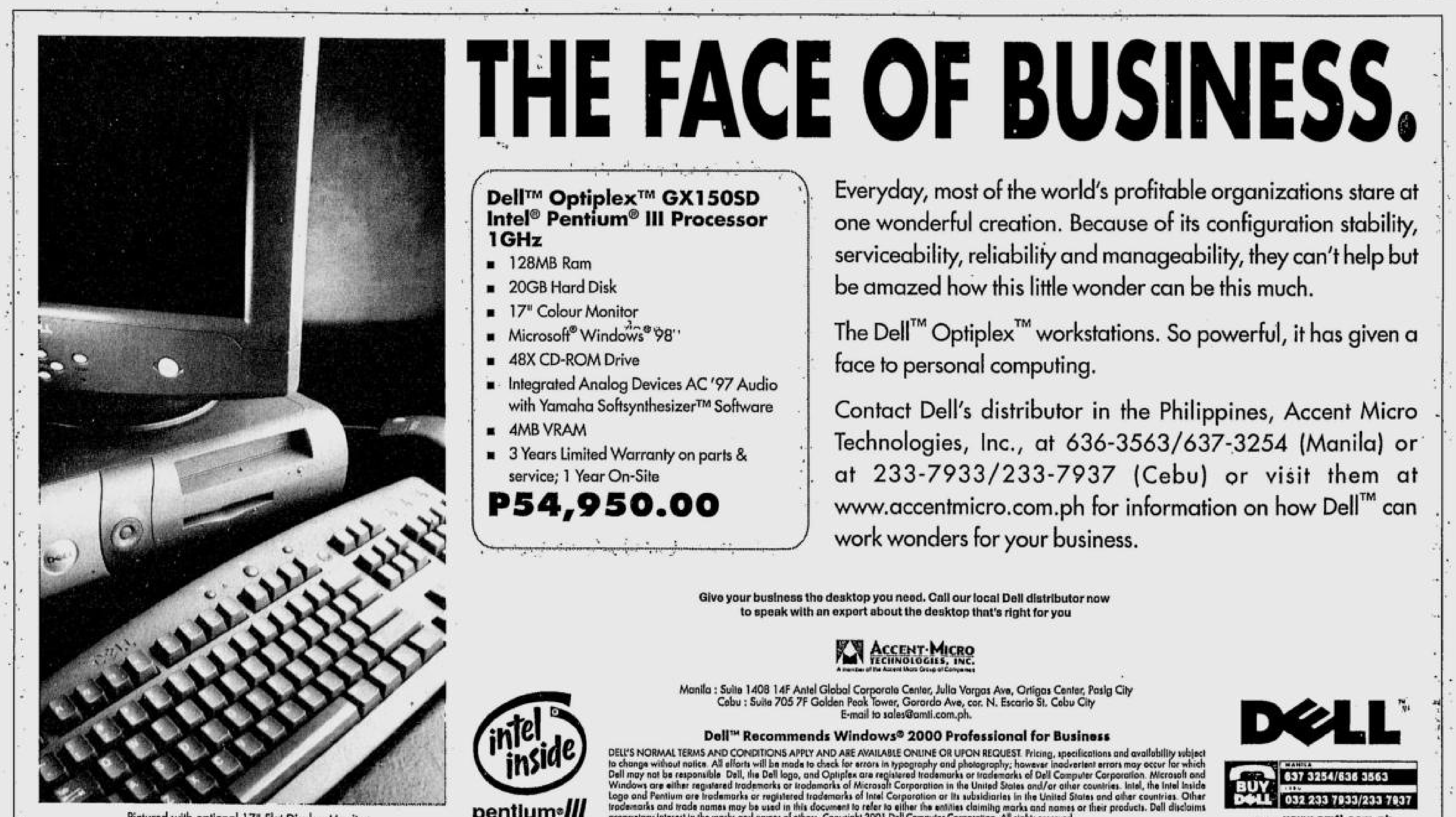

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Per DTI-NCR No. 2744 Series of 2001

ABALOS golfing.

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

ABALOS ON CRISIS

'Not my fault'

BY NELSON F. FLORES
AND AGNES DONATO

METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday blamed a number of local government units for the garbage that has been piling up on the streets of Metro Manila.

NO fair course for MMDA chief as Metro Manila streets stink with uncollected garbage.

Abalos said the failure of local governments to implement provisions of Republic Act 9003 (the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000) led to the pile-up of garbage in their respective towns and cities. He said the law is very clear that the garbage should be properly segregated before garbage collectors could haul them off.

"The complaining local government units obviously failed to comply with the law, for I have strict orders to garbage haulers not to collect garbage that are not properly segregated as mandated by R.A. 9003," Abalos stressed.

He explained that under the law, garbage haulers could face a prison term of 15 to 30 days, or a fine ranging from P1,000 to P3,000, or both depending on the court's discretion if the haulers collected unsegregated garbage.

He added that because of the law, garbage haulers are now forced to choose whether to follow their contract with the concerned local government and pick up the trash in violation of the law, or violate their contract with the LGU and abide by the provisions of R.A. 9003.

Earlier, Abalos set a new deadline giving local government units until the end of the month to implement the garbage segregation scheme, after which he will order his men to arrest haulers found collecting unsegregated trash.

"We will clean up Metro Manila, but after the new deadline, the law will have to be implemented to the letter," Abalos said. "I have no choice, even if mounds of garbage sprout all over Metro Manila. (Local government executives) should comply with the law."

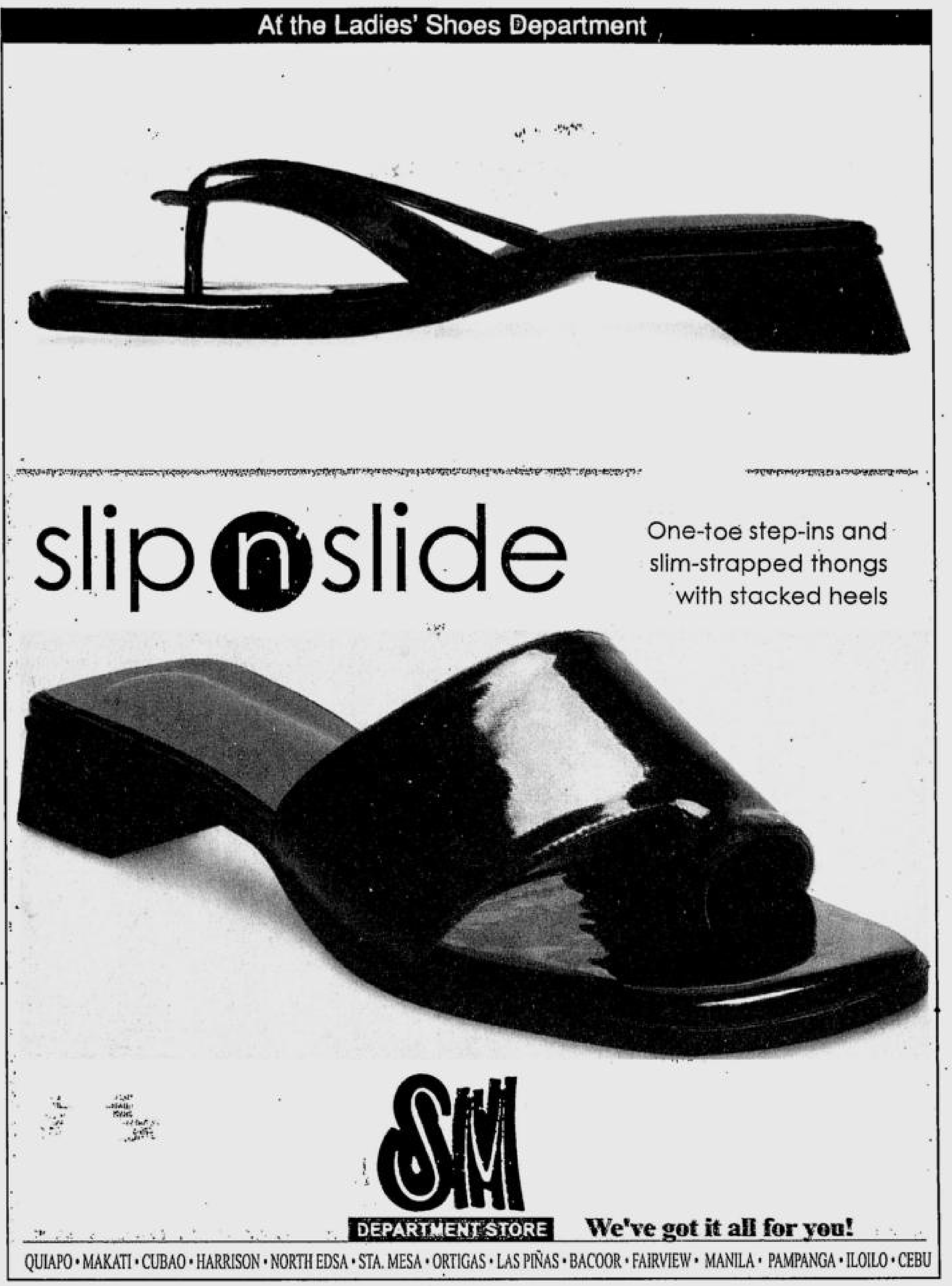
The governments of Makati City and San Juan earlier accused Abalos of neglect for the failure of garbage haulers to collect waste in their areas.

This caused mounds of trash to accumulate on their streets, according to local government officials.

NOT/ A22

▨ **Makati garbage trucks impounded in Bulacan** A22

▨ **Bicol site offered for Metro garbage** A22



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HONDA

Soldiers demoralized in Basilan

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THERE is a disturbing report that some Army soldiers have filed for early retirement or have themselves honorably discharged from the service because they hate what their superiors are doing in Basilan.

Although I didn't get this information firsthand, I was told by a source close to one of the disgruntled Army soldiers.

One of these soldiers told my source that pursuing government troops are stopped in their tracks by higher-ups when they corner the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers.

If the demoralization within the ranks goes on, the government cannot beat the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

***

They are not referring to one single incident. The one in Lamitan town, where Abu Sayyaf kidnappers mysteriously escaped even when they were surrounded by soldiers, was only part of the whole picture.

After Lamitan, my source was told, there were other occasions when soldiers already had the bandits cornered but were ordered to withdraw or hold their fire.

It seems President Macapagal-Arroyo spoke too soon in defense of top military officers in Basilan. She said that there was no collusion between the bandits and top military brass in Basilan.

***

It's a good thing the Armed Forces high command has now given the Marines a bigger role in going after the Abu Sayyaf bandits in Basilan.

They have probably realized that the Marines know the Basilan terrain like the lines on their palms. Before the Army took over from them, Basilan was the Marines' area of operation. Now, they play only a supporting role to the Army.

"Militics" or military politics is the reason the Marines are not given the primary role in going after the Abu Sayyaf. Another word for it is jealousy or envy.

***

Why are the Marines better at handling anti-dissident campaign in the areas where they operate?

It's not only their high fighting spirit because, like their US counterparts, the very reason for the existence of the Marines is to fight. "First in, last out" is among several Marine mottos. This means that they're the first to get into the scene of combat and the last to leave.

The primary reason for the Marines' success in fighting insurgency is their ability to adapt to the local populace's customs. In short, they have good public relations. The result is that civilians act as their eyes and ears.

***

Chinese Ambassador Wang Chungui said the Moro kidnappers who killed two Chinese engineers who were helping build an irrigation project in Mindanao were "inhuman."

Since when have Moros become human or humane. Whether they are rebels of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, Moro National Liberation Front or kidnappers like the Abu Sayyaf, they're all the same. They have intense hatred for people outside the Islamic faith.

***

Beleaguered Sen. Panfilo Lacson says there is no evidence against him in the matter of his alleged laundered bank accounts in Hong Kong, Canada and the United States.

Well, I have news for Lacson: the government will soon be coming out with the confirmed bank accounts of his wife, Alice, in the US. I was told that the bank accounts have "substantial" deposits. My sources said it's no longer two but four bank accounts belonging to Alice Lacson.

The US government is cooperating little by little with the Philippine government in looking for Lacson's bank accounts.

***

If the government can't send Lacson to prison for the Kuratong Baleleng rubout, he can probably go to jail because of wiretapping, a serious crime.

Fresh reports say Lacson ordered the bugging of the phones of Luis Chavit Singson and the senators who were anti-Erap in the impeachment trial. The reports have come out after the bugging devices used by Lacson and his men at the infamous Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force were confiscated by government agents from an electronics dealer.

Oh, how the guy could lie! He kept denying that he and his men couldn't have bugged their enemies because the purchase of the sophisticated equipment did not push through. But the purchase did push through.

Lacson, you've been caught lying again. If you were Pinocchio, your nose would have grown each time you lied.

***

Some officials in the know say our government will get the full and unconditional cooperation of the US if we honor our commitments to Uncle Sam.

One such commitment is honoring our extradition treaty with the United States.

These officials say that if the government extradites Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez to the US, we will get America's full cooperation in prosecuting Senator Lacson. Jimenez is facing various charges in the US, including tax fraud and illegal campaign contribution.

'They're starving us to death'

FOREIGN detainees who led the hunger strike at the Bureau of Immigration jail in Bicutan, Taguig said they are being "starved to death," a claim dismissed yesterday by immigration officials.

Canadian Raymond Jackson, one of the detainees thrown into solitary confinement for leading the strike, said food is being served to them only once every three days.

Jackson told the **INQUIRER** he and the other detainees have also been denied visits from families, lawyers and members of media.

Jackson, Iranian Reza Soltanee and Emmanuel Odense are being held at the BI Intelligence Unit jail at the main office of the immigration bureau in Intramuros after they were identified as "troublemakers" in the hunger strike.

"They are starving us to death because of the hunger strike we held," Jackson said. "That strike was a peaceful expression of our grievances. Is the BI afraid of the truth?"

But BI Associate Commissioner Daniel Cueto vehemently denied Jackson's claim.

"That is a total lie," Cueto said. "The truth is, it is they (Jackson and the others) who do not want to eat."

He added the detainees' lawyers, family and media are allowed to see them. "They are being given every courtesy and privileges." *Alcuin Papa*

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Sealed bids should be dropped in a bid box provided at Room 718 not later than **2:00 PM, September 7, 2001**, upon which bids shall be opened in the presence of participating bidders.

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(PDI – Aug. 30 & 31, 2001)

Ex-solon's son freed with help of senator

By Alcuin Papa

TWO teenagers who were caught with drugs in a stolen car on Monday have been released without bail, reportedly with the help of a senator.

Franco Romualdez, 18, a student who claimed to be the son of former congressman Alfredo Romualdez and a resident of North Forbes Park, Makati, and Canadian Ryan Chua, 17, also a student and resident of Annapolis Street in Greenhills, San Juan, were released the other night from the custody of the Makati Police Anti-Carnapping Unit.

The two did not post bail.

Sources in the Makati police said the senator, reported to be a friend of the former congressman, went to police headquarters and facilitated the release of the teenagers.

The senator, whom the police did not name, allegedly told investigators that the teenagers did not steal the car.

But a follow-up investigation on the vehicle revealed that it was stolen on Monday at the Renaissance Center in Pasig City. The theft was also reported to the Eastern Police District.

The senator also told investigators that the suspects were running away from a fight with other other teenagers, which was why Romualdez and Chua tried to escape from the pursuing police.

Romualdez and Chua were arrested on Monday afternoon for car theft and drug charges.

Police in a patrol car spotted the two driving a gray Honda Civic without license plates on Edsa near Ayala Avenue.

Suspecting that the car was stolen, the police chased the vehicle and caught up with the suspects at the corner of Estrella Street and Edsa.

The suspects got out of the car and tried to run, but the lawmen caught up with them and brought them to police headquarters, police said.

Police allegedly found inside the car five tablets believed to be Valium, a prescription drug.

Police said the suspects could not produce the registration papers of the car. Later, Romualdez claimed he was the son of the former Leyte congressman.

Manager in jail after 'selling' girl two times

By Jerome Aning

THE GIRL told police she was "sold" twice to foreigners on a sex tour in Manila.

Wasting no time, operatives of Western Police District arrested a talent manager in Tondo, Manila on Tuesday after she was accused of pimping her 17-year-old recruit to Japanese and Chinese tourists.

Suspect Joy Enriquez, 28, single, manager of Henessey Collection talent firm, was arrested by WPD women and children's desk operatives at her residence on 2809 Molave St., Tondo. She was charged with prostitution and violation of the Anti-Child Abuse law.

Supt. Araceli Holofena, WCD chief, said Enriquez was accused by victim Amor (not her real name), a resident of Maypajo, Caloocan City, of "selling" her twice this month to foreigners.

The victim said Enriquez recruited her group a few weeks ago and found work for them as dancers and guest relations officers in four nightclubs in Manila and Pasay City.

But after a few days, the suspect allegedly began to order her to give sexual services to Chinese and Japanese clients.

Amor claimed she and several other young girls were kept inside Enriquez's apartment and released after the suspect dealt with foreigners looking for prostitutes.

She added that she was given P1,000 to P1,500 after she slept with the foreigners.

The victim told investigator PO3 Dindi Villegas she was last "sold" by the suspect on Aug. 26, when Enriquez allegedly forced her to check in with a Chinese tourist at the Holiday Inn Hotel on United Avenue corner Ma. Orosa Street in Ermita.

Amor said she and Enriquez earlier met at the Jollibee restaurant on Tayuman Street in Sta. Cruz. The Chinese, who later arrived in a car, was supposed to help Amor find work as an entertainer in Japan. The victim said she was instead raped twice by the Chinese.

Police did not find the other girls when they raided Enriquez's house. The suspect was detained at the WPD Integrated Jail.

Bicol site offered for Metro garbage

REP. Felix Alfelor Jr.of the 4th District of Camarines Sur has proposed a 1,300-hectare area in Barangay Pamplona, Del Gallego, Camarines Sur to be a dumpsite for Metro Manila's garbage.

In a letter he sent to Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Joey Rufino, Alfelor offered the solution "to settle the waste disposal problem of Metro Manila," which he said will also generate funds to rehabilitate the Philippine National Railways.

Alfelor's proposal estimated that the daily garbage from Metro Manila could provide the PNR an income of P1.4 million a day at 75 centavos for one ton of garbage, computed at its volume and distance of transport.

But Cong. Rolando Andaya Jr., 1st District Camarines Sur, who covers the area where Del Gallego town is located, was opposed to the proposal even as Alfelor said that this could generate revenue share for Camarines Sur of up to P75 million a year.

Camarines Sur first district board member Warren Señar said Alfelor's proposal was submitted to Malacañang without consultation from the local government units here. He refused to comment on the proposal.

In Quezon, the Kapatiran at Alyansang Alay Para sa Kaunlaran ng Bayan-Quezon, a militant coalition of multi- sectoral organizations in the province, also objected to Alfelor's proposal.

Jay Lim, Kaakbay-Quezon spokesperson, called on the Bicolanos to strongly oppose the proposal.

Alfelor said he came up with the proposal after President Macapagal-Arroyo identified in her State of the Nation Address the piling garbage in Metro Manila as among the pressing problems that had to be addressed. ***Juan Escandor Jr. and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Makati garbage trucks impounded in Bulacan

MARILAO, Bulacan—Environment personnel and policemen impounded four garbage trucks from Metro Manila after their drivers tried to dump garbage in the boundary of Barangays Patubig and Sta. Rosa here on Tuesday midnight.

Police said the garbage came from Makati City and would be dumped in an open landfill in this town, more than 20 km north of Metro Manila.

The truck drivers–Pedrito Umurez, Lope Bachica and Leopoldo Tanteo, all of Makati City and Rodrigo de Guzman of this town–were arrested and detained at the Marilao police for violating the sanitation code.

Their trucks were impounded at the provincial engineering office compound in Guiguinto town.

Gov. Josefina de la Cruz ordered the provincial legal office to file charges against the drivers, their employers and the owners of the dumpsite in Barangays Sta. Rosa and Patubig.

Jovito Saguinsin, chief of the provincial environment and natural resources office in Malolos, said some landowners in the province whose lands are used as open landfills get between P300 and P500 from every truck that dumps garbage in their property.

He said illegal dumping of garbage in the province takes place from midnight to dawn. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Ombudsman suspends 12 QC officials for Manor tragedy

By Michael Lim Ubac

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto yesterday suspended for six months seven Quezon City Hall authorities and five city fire officials in connection with the tragic Manor Hotel blaze that killed 74 people.

Suspended were city engineering office chief Alfredo Macapugay, former city engineer chief Donato Rivera, assistant chief of the city building office Romualdo Santos, chief of the business, permits and licensing office Rafael Galvez, acting chief of the the electrical inspection office Romeo Montallana and building inspectors Gerardo Villasenor and Severino Mariano.

The Bureau of Fire Protection officials suspended were city fire marshal Ricardo Lemence, former fire city marshal Carlito Romero and firemen Reynaldo Simpao, Manuel Baduria Jr., and Teodorico Gaela.

Desierto said the 12 officials were found administratively guilty for neglect of duty by the Ombudsman Fact-Finding and Investigation Bureau (FFIB), which conducted preliminary investigation on the case.

Desierto imposed the preventive suspension on the 12 after he found that "the evidence of guilt is strong, that the charges against such officer or employee involve grave misconduct and neglect in the performance of duty, which would warrant removal from the service, and that the respondent's continued stay in office may prejudice the case filed against them."

He said the preventive suspension would be effective during the duration of the Ombudsman's formal investigation on the administrative liabilities of the 12.

The FFIB also recommended the preliminary investigation on graft and charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide against the 12.

Desierto said the FFIB found that the officials issued the mayor's and other pertinent permits to the owner of the hotel without first checking whether the latter had complied with the requirements for the issuance of the permits.

Even after the officials had found that the hotel was violating building rules and requirements, they still failed to close down the hotel, according to Desierto.

DESIERTO

ARANETA LAND ROW

Villagers, guards clash; loyalists set to barricade

By Christian V. Esguerra

THOUSANDS of Marcos loyalists residing at Pangarap Village in Caloocan City yesterday threatened to set up human barricades to prevent real estate developer Greggy Araneta from demolishing their houses tomorrow after he won an ejectment case last week.

Gudofredo Munieza Jr., president of the Malacañang Homeowners Association Inc. in the village, said residents, mostly soldiers and employees of Ferdinand Marcos, have no recourse but to stage a popular revolt against Araneta should the Marcos son-in-law proceed with the scheduled demolition of their houses tomorrow.

Violence erupted in the quiet Caloocan village Tuesday night when around 20 security guards of Araneta clashed with around 40 residents, after metropolitan trial court judge Eleanor Kwong issued a writ of execution paving the way for the ejectment of at least 15 families, according to Munieza.

Araneta's men over the weekend put up an arch bearing the name of Pangarap Village at the subdivision's entrance, he said. Around 10 p.m. on Tuesday, however, angry bystanders reportedly destroyed the arch since it supposedly displaced the tricycle terminal at the village entrance. The bystanders allegedly tried to set on fire a nearby guard post when Araneta's men, said to be fully armed, attacked them, Munieza said. Residents, he said, retaliated by throwing stones at the security guards.

Several persons were reportedly injured during the violent clash that lasted for nearly two hours, he said. But police neither confirmed nor denied this report.

The metropolitan trial court decision dealt a big blow on the Pangarap residents' bid to win a long-running property dispute with the Aranetas. The residents, estimated at 30,000, have petitioned for a temporary restraining order before the 17th Division of the Court of Appeals to prevent the scheduled demolition tomorrow.

Residents argued that they own the 156-hectare property since it was granted to them by Marcos through Presidential Decree 293 on Sept. 14, 1973.

But several years later, the Supreme Court declared as null and void Marcos' decree.

Not my . . .

(From page A21)

In San Juan, police will now have to bear the stink of uncollected garbage after the local government decided to turn the backyard of the police headquarters into a temporary transfer station for the municipality's trash.

The municipality used to dump its garbage at the Pinaglabanan Shrine, but the celebration today of the historic Battle of Pinaglabanan posed problems for the San Juan organizers.

Councilor Rolando Bernardo, chair of the committee on solid waste management, said the council would be turning the 2,000-square-meter lot at the back of the police station into a temporary garbage dump.

Bernardo said they had to clean up the Shrine for the celebration. To do that, he said they would "have to find another site where our trash could be temporarily accommodated."

For his part, Supt. Rodrigo de Gracia of the San Juan police said he and his men had nothing against the police backyard being turned into a temporary garbage dump.

"This early, we can already smell the stench of the dump," De Gracia said. "But we could not do anything about it because it is government property."

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10	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
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2	KISS OF THE DRAGON
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6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
10	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
11	SEX MEDUSA
12	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

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1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	SHREK
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5	ANIMAL
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7	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
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9	RUSH HOUR 2
10	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
11	RUSH HOUR 2
12	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL

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2	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	SHREK
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	ANIMAL
7	SEX EDUCATION
8	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	RUSH HOUR 2
11	SEX MEDUSA
12	RADYO

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3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

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2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	SHREK
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	PLANET OF THE APES
8	RUSH HOUR 2
9	MOULIN ROUGE
10	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
11	RADYO
12	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL

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8066888

1	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
2	SEX MEDUSA
3	RUSH HOUR 2
4	SHREK
5	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
6	BROTHERHOOD
7	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
8	PLANET OF THE APES
9	RUSH HOUR 2
10	SEX EDUCATION

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820905

1	SEX EDUCATION
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RUSH HOUR 2

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1	SHREK
2	ANIMAL
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4	KAMASUTRA 2001
5	VENUS
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	PLANET OF THE APES

SM ILOILO
3209422

1	RADYO
2	CLOSED
3	SHREK
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	ANIMAL
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	CLOSED
8	CATS & DOGS

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7128815

1	SHREK
2	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	PLANET OF THE APES
5	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

SM SUCAT
8294615

1	SHREK
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

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2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	PLANET OF THE APES

GLORIETTA 4

1	SHREK in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	PLANET OF THE APES in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	RUSH HOUR 2 THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	XIU XIU: THE SENT DOWN GIRL (Phil. Premiere) in DTS DIGITAL SOUND Art Film
5	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	RUSH HOUR 2 in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	RUSH HOUR 2 in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	SHREK in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
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3	SHREK in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	PLANET OF THE APES in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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4 GOLD (DTS)	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	MOULIN ROUGE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
8 [illegible]	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
9 [illegible]	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10 [illegible]	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	

Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
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3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

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3	SEX EDUCATION

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2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	IRA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PLANET OF THE APES
5	SEX EDUCATION

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	SEX EDUCATION
3	SEX MEDUSA
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
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A	SEX EDUCATION

Sunshine
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1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	SEX EDUCATION
3	
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DTS)	SHREK
8 (SDDS)	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
9 (DOLBY)	PLANET OF THE APES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
4 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
5	SEX MEDUSA
6 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
7 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
8	KISS OF THE DRAGON
9	VENUS

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RESERVE
4	VENUS
5 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
8	RESERVE

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RESERVE
3 (DTS)	PLANET OF THE APES
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

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1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

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1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

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3	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

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1 (DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	PLANET OF THE APES
3	SEX MEDUSA
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
5	SEX EDUCATION

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	BROTHERHOOD
4	RESERVE
5	RESERVE
6	SEX EDUCATION

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	SEX MEDUSA
3	SEX EDUCATION

Berma
tel 879-2029 or 30

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	SEX MEDUSA

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	SHREK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DTS)	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
3 (DOLBY)	SHREK
4	BROTHERHOOD

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) Tel. (049) 411-1146

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DOLBY)	SHREK
3 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
4	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Cinemagix
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1	TOM CATS
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Lianas Cinema
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1 (SDDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
2	SEX EDUCATION
3	IRA
4 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Lianas MovieCity
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1 (DOLBY)	BROTHERHOOD
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3 (DTS)	SHREK
4	IRA
5	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	IRA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	SHREK
3	IRA

Olivarez Tagaytay
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1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANINN
3	IRA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
3	SHREK

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2365

1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	IRA
2	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
3	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	IRA
2	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
3	COOL DUDES
4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN

Jade Cinema
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1 (DOLBY EX)	SCREAM... FRIDAY THE 13TH
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6	RUSH HOUR 2
7	MOULIN ROUGE
8	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
9	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
10	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

ERMITA
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1	RUSH HOUIR 2
2	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH
3	SHREK
4	RUSH HOUR 2
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	CRAZY/BEAUTIFUL
7	PLANET OF THE APES

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2	SHREK
3	RESERVED
4	SHREK
5	RUSH HOUR 2
6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
7	RUSH HOUR 2
8	PLANET OF THE APES

IMUS
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1	RUSH HOUR 2
2	RUSH HOUR 2
3	PLANET OF THE APES
4	SHREK
5	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
6	SCREAM... FRIDAY 13TH

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1	PLANET OF THE APES
2	ANIMAL
3	MOULIN ROUGE
4	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
5	COOL DUDES
6	TEENAGE SEDUCTION

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	RUSH HOUR 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	PLANET OF THE APES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SHREK
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	BROTHERHOOD
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SEX EDUCATION
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	RUSH HOUR 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	ARAY/ OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
ODEON	RUSH HOUR 2
ODEON-2	SEX EDUCATION
ROBEN	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
TANDEM-1	TURN ON
TANDEM-2	PARU PARONG LIGAW
TIMES	WOMAN ON TOP/ VALENTINE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	RUSH HOUR 2
QUEZON-1	RUSH HOUR 2
REMAR	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
REMAR-2	SEX EDUCATION
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-2	JAPAN ANIME' FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-2	SEX EDUCATION
CINEMA-3	RADYO
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BROTHERHOOD
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	KISS OF THE DRAGON
CINEMA-6	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-7	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
CINEMA-8	IRA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUSH HOUR 2
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SHREK
CINEMA-12	PLANET OF THE APES
CINEMA-14	SCREAM
CINEMA-15	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	BRIDGET JONE'S DIARY
CINEMA-2	CRAZY/ BEAUTIFUL
CINEMA-3	SHREK
CINEMA-4	BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN
CINEMA-5	MOULIN ROUGE
CINEMA-6	PLANET OF THE APES
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	RESERVE
CINEMA-2	RESERVE
CINEMA-4	RESERVE
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	FIGHTING BACK
CINEMA-2	SAMBAHIN ANG PURI KO
CINEMA-4	HAYOP SA GANDA

Dance event series

TELECOM giant Nokia is collaborating with Pepsi and Pioneer to present a three-part dance event series, "Nokia Colors," which kicks off Sept. 3 at Westin Philippine Plaza Grand Ballroom.

The series is a powerhouse production that will feature renowned international dance DJ Nick Warren. It will display top-notch visuals, sound and interactive merchandising presented by Stage Craft International and MTV 2001 best video winner, Furball.

NU 107 will broadcast the event live over "Open House" and Pinoy Central will host a webcast.

Myx on Studio 23 will do the TV coverage.

Warren is the other half of the highly successful and respected duo, Way Out West. Hailed as one of the Top 20 DJs of 2000 by DJ Magazine, Warren is one of the most sought-after DJs, producers and re-mixers.

He is well-known for his unique style of deep trance and progressive house music. The success of such luscious singles as 1997's "The Gift" is proof of his and partner Jody Wisternoff's ability to churn out hits.

Warren has since released three successful compilations under the Global Underground banner. He is also the first DJ to put out a DVD-ROM series of his live shows, with the latest held in Ibiza.

"Intensify," the brand-new album from Way Out West, features the hit single "The Fall," which will be released through Universal Records Philippines.

Early birds can get a chance to take home a copy of the CD. The first 500 guests will receive free drinks, a Way Out West poster, plus toys and goodies.

But the entire event is not just about dancing and progressive house music. In the ballroom are product tents showcasing the latest in Nokia technology and Pioneer home and car sound systems.

A Velcro wall will also be built for daring folks.

Guest DJs include Hong Kong's Simon Blackjack and DJ Phil from Australia.

Tickets to the event are priced at P350 and are available at all Ticket World outlets, National Bookstore branches, Robinson's Department Store in Galleria and Ermita, Tower Records in Makati and Alabang.

"Nokia Colors" is a project of Focus Productions Inc., Way Out East and Excession.

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Matrix 11:00 PM
Mission Impossible 2 1:30 AM
X-Men 2:45 AM
What Lies Beneath 4 45 AM

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Jeffrey Quizon needs a strong director

EVER since he scored a personal triumph in "Markova," we've been keeping tabs on **Jeffrey Quizon**'s performances on TV and in the movies. His portrayals haven't been very consistent, with some of them coming off as inspired and judicious, while others have been way over the top.

Our conclusion is that Jeffrey is so "enthusiastic" as a performer that he needs a strong director to help him regain his focus and keep his performances from becoming excessive.

After "Markova," we saw Jeffrey in a TV movie set in the States directed by his older brother **Eric**, and Jeffrey was too frisky and fussy in that production, an indication that his *Kuya* Eric doted too much on him and allowed him to go overboard.

In the film "Radyo," Jeffrey was similarly excessive by way of attention-calling "crazy" and "Kooky" tics and mannerisms, again a sign that director **Yam Laranas** had given him leave to "go to town" in the role.

But productions aren't "made" by solo performances, no matter how energetic or idiosyncratic. Context is everything so characters have to be a part of a whole, relating to each other in an organic way, with no single member of the cast running away with the show.

Recently, we caught the TV mini-series "Detour" on TV, and we were pleasantly surprised to see Jeffrey doing still vibrant but now more judicious work. When we learned that "Detour" was directed by **Chito Roño**, we understood why Jeffrey did more focused work in that production.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Chito is a strong-willed director who knows what he wants from his actors, how to get it out of them, and how to make them interact so that they do ensemble rather than solo-flying work.

We hope that Jeffrey will make it a point to be handled by similarly focused directors. He may have less "freedom" to go to town with his vivid, colorful and hyper characterizations, but he'll also make fewer mistakes.

Other aspiring actors would do well to also do their best to get a lot of directorial mentoring and moulding early in their careers. That way, they'll develop good, judicious acting habits from the very start, and they'll be less likely to come up with excessive, egocentric performances that could turn viewers off, and discourage producers and directors from securing their services.

'Three Seasons'

ON VIEW at Glorietta 4 ArtFilm is "Three Seasons," the first American production to be shot in Vietnam since the war. Made by Vietnamese-American **Tony Bui**, the film won the Jury Prize, Audience Award and the Best Cinematography trophy at the Sundance Film Festival.

"Three Seasons" is described as "a cinematic poem that works more as a reflective mood piece than a traditional story."

On 'Oprah'

THURSDAY, Aug. 30 at 1 p.m. on StarWorld, take a vanity meter test and see how vain you are in "When Your Vanity Is Challenged."

Friday, Aug. 31, "AIDS in West Virginia."

TV treats

TUESDAY, Sept. 4 at 8 p.m. on Viva Cinema, "Erpats Kong Forgets" stars **Eddie Garcia** and **Aga Muhlach**, with **Janice de Belen** and **Carmi Martin**.

At 9 p.m. on Star Mandarin Movies, "Return to a Better World" with **Ekin Cheng**.

At 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "The Outsiders" with **Matt Dillon** and **C. Thomas Lowell**. Directed by **Francis Ford Coppola**. Replays on Wednesday, Sept. 5 at 2 p.m. and Thursday, Sept. 13 at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 5 at 7:15 p.m. on Star Movies, "Queen's Messenger" topbills **John Standing**. Replays on Thursday, Sept. 6 at 3:45 and Monday, Sept. 10 at 9:45 a.m.

Thursday, Sept. 6 at 8 p.m. on Viva Cinema, "Bakit Ikaw Pa Rin?" with **Sharon Cuneta** and **Gabby Concepcion**.

At 9 p.m. on Star Movies, "Star Wars Episode 1—The Phantom Menace" with **Liam Neeson, Ewan McGregor** and **Natalie Portman**.

I will love Nora Aunor like my real mother until I die–Matet

I MISSED "The Buzz" last Sunday but I heard about **Lotlot de Leon**'s tearful plea for people to leave her sister **Matet** alone.

Lot came to Matet's aid after a mysterious woman named **Celia** came out in the open claiming to be Matet's real mother. It is common knowledge that both Lot and Matet are adopted daughters of **Nora Aunor** who has truly loved them like her very own.

While it could be true that Celia is indeed Matet's biological mother, it is Nora who really raised and nurtured her. It is easy to become a mother; it is hard to be one. Nora has done both. She gave birth to **Ian** and took in Lot, Matet and **Kiko**. As my mom always says, a mother is a mother.

Celia may have her reasons for surfacing in Matet's life at this point in time. Whatever comes out of her reunion with Matet will not lessen what Nora has done for the former child wonder.

I got a chance to talk with Matet when I visited our mutual friend, *Tita* **Bebot Santos**, at

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

Café Kilimanjaro. Matet seemed oblivious to the crowd and was lost in her own thoughts. She made me promise to keep some things just between the two of us. But I'll let you in on certain portions of our private conversation.

Dolly: How did you feel when you saw Lotlot on "The Buzz?"

Matet: I cried even harder than she did. What makes it all the more touching is that she defended me without even telling me that she would. *Medyo may tampuhan kasi kami*. Nothing serious. We have not talked for a long time, but on my birthday this October (her debut) I plan to invite her. If she comes, that will be the best birthday gift. I miss her. I know she always looks out for me.

Have you heard from your mom (Nora) after all the controversy about your real mom?

Nope but I take her love with me always so even when I don't see her I'm reassured by the thought that she's there for me. I wouldn't be where I am if she did not take care of me. In a way, it's a blessing in disguise that a stranger is claiming to be my real mom because it made me realize how much I truly love my mom (Nora). Sometimes we tend to take things for granted. Now, I value even more all the sacrifices that she made for me.

Do you believe in Celia's claim that you are her flesh and blood?

Even if 100 women claim to be my real mom, it does not matter to me. Mommy (Nora) has always been my mother and I will love her like a real mother until I die.

I remember when she told me I was adopted. I was 10 years old. I never took it against her. I'm grateful that she took me out of nowhere and gave me a good life. She said,

"*Ang Kuya* Ian *mo galing sa akin pero kahit kayo ni Ate* Lot *at* Kiko *ay 'di galing sa akin, pantay-pantay ang pag-mamahal ko sa inyong apat.*" Now that I'm older, these words have gained a deeper meaning.

Dingdong's dates

THIS is for all **Dingdong Dantes** fanatics out there. Looks like Cupid's arrow has hit the bull's-eye in Dingdong's heart.

"Dear Dolly,

"I read about your writeup on Dingdong Dantes and his girls. While it' very true that he dates both **Toni** and **China J** . . . well, the story doesn't end there.

. . . Dingdong is dead serious about a commercial model named **Iya** (who came out in a shampoo ad) but as much as Iya wants to go beyond the friendship thing she just can't because her family does not approve of Dingdong. There was a time Dingdong really made it a part of his schedule to fetch the girl from her class. When Dindong was still in San Beda, they would hang out in Dingdong's car (a Dodge) or in any of the Beda offices.

(Name withheld upon request)."

Darna remake

DIREK **Joey Gosengfiao** was bubbling with excitement when I bumped into him. He told me about the biggest Darna spectacular which will start shooting in September in time for the December Metro Manila Film-fest.

"**Judy Ann Santos** is the newest Darna," he said. "The movie is 'Lipad, Darna, Lipad.' It has three episodes. Each episode has a different director and writer. The directors are **Elwood Perez, Maryo J de los Reyes** and **Mario O' Hara**. The writers are **Clodulado del Mundo Jr., Roy Iglesias** and **Jun Lana**. Juday will be pitted against three female antagonists, Impakta, Valentina and Babaing Lawin."

I must say that this Darna project could not have come at a better time. After Juday's battle with the bulge, she now finally has the curves in the right places for a Darna costume. If you've got it, flaunt it.

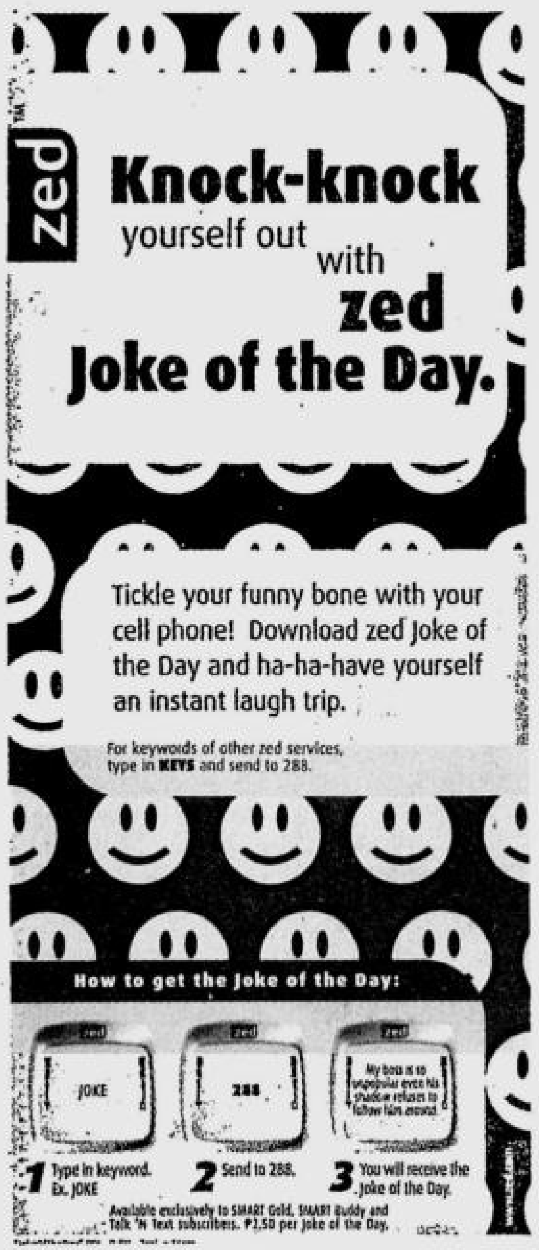
And for those who are still trying so hard to lose weight (just like moi), let's just fake it till we make it.

Stars' beauty secrets

I have been swamped with e-mail regarding an item I wrote a few months back about the well-kept secret of the stars' clear complexion and other beauty regimens. Since I can't possibly e-mail back every reader, I thought I it would be best to give you the contact number through this column. You may call 723-4619 or 20 and look for Baby.

There are times I can't keep a secret but I always keep a promise. I guarantee that this "li'l secret" works.

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole2000@yahoo.com



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Monique holds benefit concert

AS A BENEFIT for Kalayaan College at the Riverbanks Center in Marikina, Monique Wilson and the New Voice Company will stage a concert, "Mga Awit ng Pag-ibig at Kalayaan/ Songs of Love and Freedom," Sept. 2 at 6 p.m.

Monique took a break from her studies in London where she is completing her masters in drama, education and directing. She is a former theater arts student at the University of the Philippines and she founded the New Voice Company in 1994.

She is one of the directors of Kalayaan College which was initiated by UP professors led by former UP president Jose V. Abueva.

The concert will be held at the ampi-theater or open-air concert hall of the Riverbanks Center along the Marikina River. The venue can accommodate 20,000 people.

Monique's repertoire will consist of Filipino songs like "Nais Ko," "Kalayaang Mana," "Minsan Lang Kitang Ibigin," "Ikaw," "Mag-simula Ka," "Hayaan," "Papayagan N'yo Ba?" and "Matimyas."

She will also sing English tunes like "Hard Work," "Do You Hear the People Sing?," "We'll Never Say Goodbye," "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "Sun and Moon."

Presented by Riverbanks Center and Kalayaan College, the concert is designed for the people's leisure and cultural enjoyment.

Through the concert, the founders and faculty of Kalayaan College wish to inform prospective students and their parents about the new institution established by UP professors committed to higher quality education.

Kalayaan College is a virtual cooperative of UP professors and alumni. The institution is modeled after the tradition, standards and curricula of UP, therefore making it a new alternative to a UP education.

For information about the concert, call 934-1789 or 948-9795.

WILSON

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BAKIT DI TOTOHANIN - GP 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30	MOULIN ROUGE - P 13 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50	PLANET OF HE APES - P 13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

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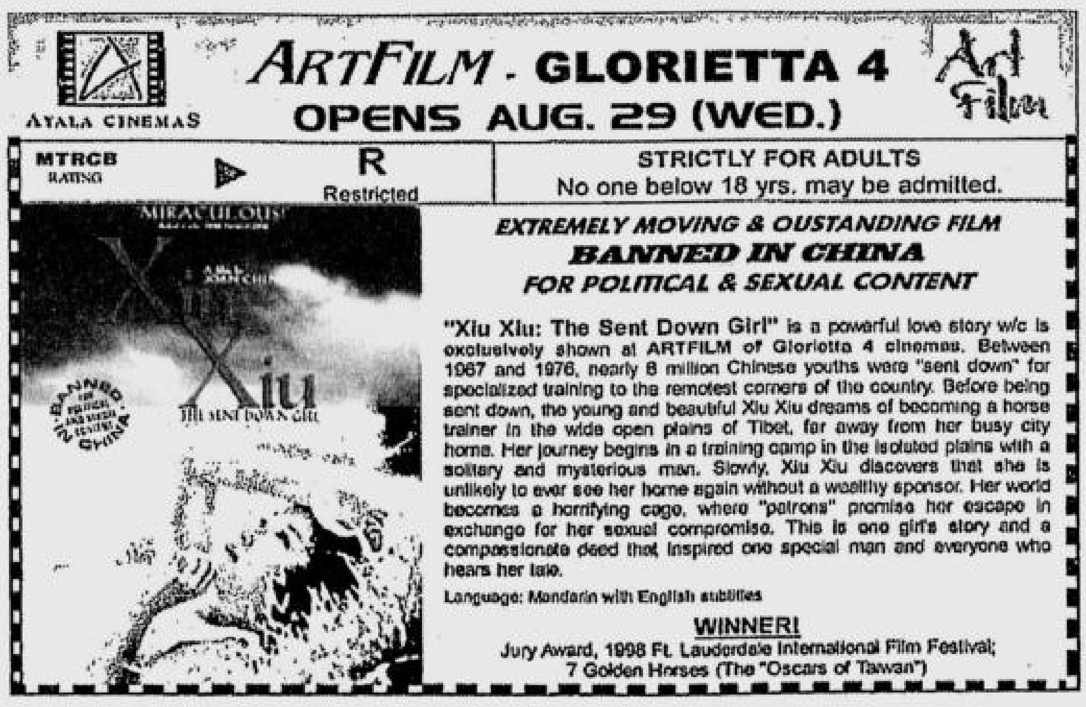

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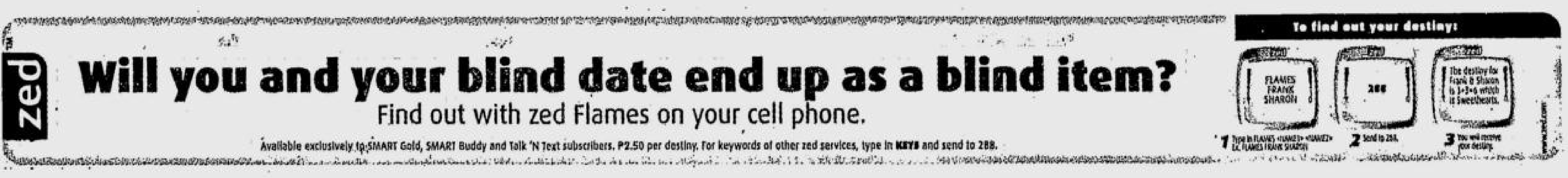

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BUSINESS

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US firm picks RP as call center site

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

INFONXX, one of the leading providers of directory inquiry services in the United States, has picked the Philippines over India as the site for its $3-million offshore call center.

This was disclosed by Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II who said that InfoNXX would be the first in a string of foreign companies expected to announce similar plans to put up call centers in the country.

Roxas said InfoNXX had decided to visit the Philippines first before India to determine the best site for its first 300-seat call center overseas. Roxas said the company did not go ahead with its trip to India but immediately decided to set up its call center at the Eastwood Cyberpark along Libis Avenue, Quezon City.

Roxas said the company's officials were impressed with the Filipinos' customer service orientation and excellent English communication skills.

"We are excited about InfoNXX's decision because it would create vast opportunities for the Philippines in the information and communication technology (ICT) field," Roxas said.

He noted that InfoNXX's project was important because it would enable more Filipinos to have access to the latest technology in ICT. The project is expected to generate at least 1,000 new jobs for Filipino IT workers. Roxas said InfoNXX promised five-digit basic salary for employees plus benefits equivalent to 60 percent of the benefits. The Philippine call center is expected to handle five million directory assistance calls a month or more than a third of its existing volume.

InfoNXX is expanding overseas to meet the growing demand for directory information across national and international boundaries specially with the trend toward convergence brought by the proliferation of PCs, the Internet, and wireless access protocol.

Roxas said there were several foreign companies that were finalizing their plans to establish their own call centers in the country. "We expect to announce at least four more call center projects in the next few weeks," Roxas said.

At the same time, the DTI has proposed to allow telecommunication providers to build an information highway linking Metro Manila's cyber parks as an alternative to their rollout requirement in rural areas.

Roxas said that encouraging telecommunication providers to focus their resources in building a broadband network would fast-track the creation of an information and communication technology (ICT) corridor in the country.

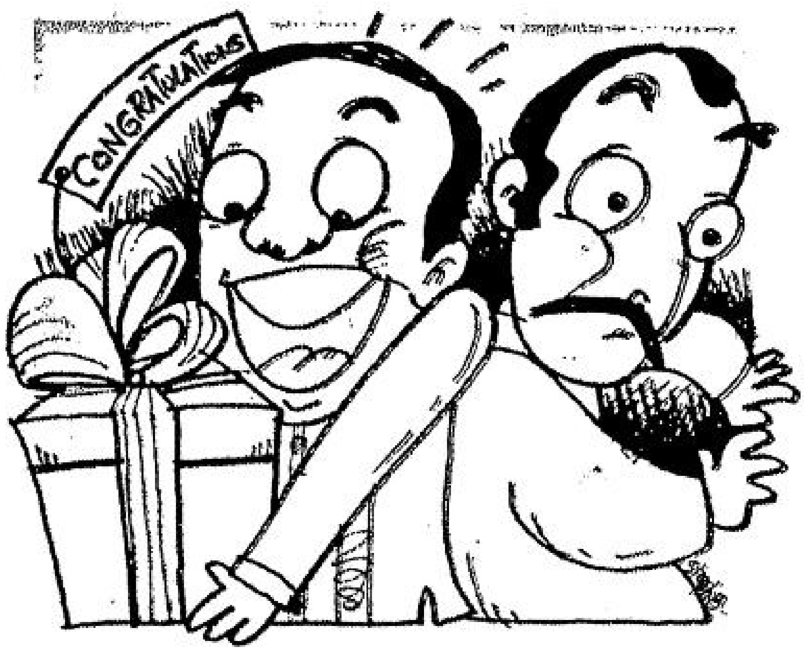
The DTI, with the backing of the Information Technology and Communication Council, wants a dependable and powerful broadband network linking IT zones in Diliman, Libis, Ortigas, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Ayala, and Alabang.

Roxas said that the proposed IT corridor should encourage more foreign companies to set up their backroom offices in the country with more reliable and better telecommunications infrastructure.

He said the DTI made the proposal in view of the country's limited capital resources to undertake this massive infrastructure development program.

Telecommunication firms are likely to pour their money into building the broadband infrastructure in the IT corridor if this is allowed as an option in compliance to their mandate to roll out landlines in rural areas when they obtained their licenses to operate mobile phones and international gateway facilities.

Roxas said this would also address complaints by local businessmen that users in the urban centers were unduly subsidizing the phone usage in the rural areas with their high subscription fees.



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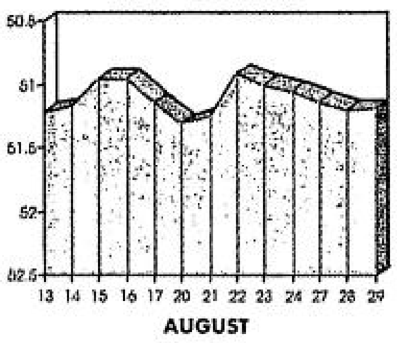


GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

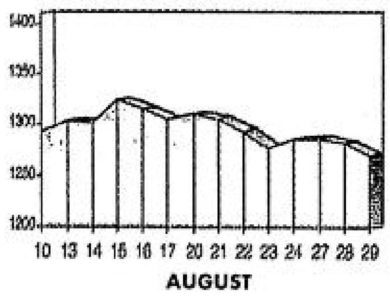
P 51.19 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
August 28, 2001

Y 119.98 = $1
As of 5 p.m.,
August 28, 2001

GOLD:$272.60/273.10
per ounce Hong Kong,
August 28, 2001

STOCK MARKET

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page

Shares down 0.9%

SHARES finished lower yesterday as the dearth of positive, market-moving developments continued to sideline investors, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 11.92 points, or 0.9 percent, at 1,270.57, after falling 0.4 percent Tuesday. Turnover narrowed to P232.44 million from Tuesday's P401.46 million. Losers were in a near three-to-one majority.

Blue chip Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. weighed on the index with a 1.9-percent loss to P515.

"This season is really bad for equities markets worldwide," said Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas. "And (foreign) funds that have left the market aren't coming back as fast as you'd want them to."

Today's scheduled release of second-quarter economic data may spark some interest in local stocks if the numbers are better than expected, traders said. However any rally may fizzle out owing to thin volume of trades, traders said.

Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas told Dow Jones Newswires earlier yesterday that the second-quarter gross domestic product may have grown at least 3 percent year-on-year, higher than economists' average 2.6-percent forecast.

Bargain hunting, however, may pick up Friday owing to the oversold conditions of some stocks, Roxas said. *AP*

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Another cut in policy rates likely, says BSP

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas yesterday said it could still bring down its overnight rates by another 25 basis points and reduce the reserve requirement on banks before yearend if the economy would improve in the coming months.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura made the statement to allay fears of the financial markets of further increases either in the BSP policy rates or in the reserve requirement to mop up excess liquidity in the system.

The BSP's overnight borrowing rate stands at 9 percent while the lending rate is at 11.25 percent.

The central bank had raised the reserve requirement on banks twice this year to 20 percent.

"I think there is a chance for the overnight rates to go down by 25 basis points depending on several factors. I think the US Fed will implement further cuts in its rates within the year," said the central bank governor.

Among the factors that could prompt a reduction in the BSP policy rates are the sustained stability of the peso, the recovery of the export sector, and the success of the government in containing its budget deficit to P145 billion this year.

"If inflation is under control and the budget deficit is within target, the government will borrow less. This will allow interest rates and overnight rates to go down," the central bank chief said.

On the banks' reserve requirement, Buenaventura said the BSP would evaluate whether the economy had grown sufficiently corresponding to the level of liquidity in the system.

Buenaventura stressed that monetary authorities were more inclined to raise the reserve requirement rather than increase the overnight rates.

The BSP chief said further cuts in the US interest rates would give the central bank an elbow room in adjusting the local overnight rates. The BSP, however, did not follow the latest cut effected by the US Fed.

The US Fed had cut its rates seven times this year to reach the current rate of 3.5 percent.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza earlier said a cut in US interest rates would ease the pressure on the peso. This, in turn, will lessen the pressure on the BSP to raise either the policy rates or the banks' reserve requirement.

RCC selling white cement unit

By Doris C. Dumlao

REPUBLIC Cement Corp. is selling its defunct white cement clinker manufacturing unit, Premier Cement Corp., to Malaysian firm Aalborg ACI White Cement Sdn Bhd.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, RCC corporate secretary Edgardo Pajao said that as a condition to the sale, Premier would extend marketing assistance to the Malaysian company while the takeover was still being finalized.

RCC, however, did not say the selling price for Premier Cement.

Premier had stopped producing white cement clinker due to depressed market condition.

The sale was approved by the stockholders of the RCC group including Blue Circle Philippines Inc., Iligan Cement Corp., Fortune Cement Corp. and Mindanao Portland Cement Corp.

RCC completed in October last year its integration with Fortune Cement Corp., Iligan Cement and Zeus Holdings Inc., the parent company of Mindanao Portland with the closing of the exchange offer and share-swap agreement among these companies.

Under the exchange offer, more than 95 percent of the securities holders of the three companies exchanged their holdings for RCC shares. The integration consolidated the interests of major shareholders of Blue Circle, the SM group and the Amon Trading group.

The Malaysian buyer is a unit of Aalborg Portland, Denmark's only cement manufacturer, which is the world's largest exporter of white cement. It is reportedly aiming to become the world's largest manufacturer of white cement.

Aalborg Portland has an annual capacity of 2.8 million tons of cement, more than half of which is exported to 70 countries across the globe.

PLDT, TeleTech ink call center deal

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. has signed an agreement with integrated customer relationship management solutions provider TeleTech to fund and build customer interaction centers all over the country.

These call centers would handle telephone calls and e-mail inquiries coming from TeleTech's clients in the United States as well as in other English speaking countries worldwide.

PLDT, on the other hand, would provide the facilities, including other services like the telecommunications and data infrastructure through its Internet arm ePLDT.

The first center at Fort Bonifacio's e-Square Information Technology Park was expected to begin operations by the end of the year. This center would initially generate at least 500 new jobs, then go up to as many as 800 over the next three years.

"We believe there is a huge potential for revenues and profits in this business area. The new call center is expected to generate significant inbound call traffic through PLDT's international network," ePLDT managing director Ray Espinosa said.

Sneak a tax

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

TO the weary stock market investors, that was a clear sneak attack from the group of Rep. Augusto "Buboy" Syjuco against the impending deal on the listed Cosmos Bottling.

That's why the good congressman is now known in the market as Mr. BS. Oh, well, you don't expect me to come up with all the monikers all the time, do you?

Mr. BS, anyway, was able to convince the court to extend the TRO against the sale of Cosmos by the RFM group to San Miguel. How he did it, we can't really know.

Naturally, the stock market does not like it one bit. Despite an assurance from Cosmos that the deal is pushing through, the share price of Cosmos stays flaccid.

Such a twist in the Cosmos story is exactly the kind of surprises that foreign investors do not like. Good golly, Ms Glory, is there no end to the bad news yet?

* * *

FOR the sake of those busy in the Senate hearing, as background, Mr. BS wants to stop the Cosmos deal, claiming that RFM still owes him and his group some P146 million.

The group actually owned the 10 soft drink companies in the south, such as Jaz Cola, which Cosmos bought in 1996. Mr. BS said Cosmos did not pay them yet fully.

The owner of Cosmos, RFM, which in turn is owned by the Concepcion family, featuring civic leader Jose Concepcion Jr., claims that Cosmos even overpaid Mr. BS.

The first time he sent Cosmos a love letter (i.e. collection notice) was way back in 1997, according to RFM, and at that time, he was asking for only P13 million more.

In an audit, however, SGV found out that Cosmos even overpaid Mr. BS and company by almost P10 million. Even the group of Mr. BS recognized the audit.

Now Mr. BS's new improved figure of P146 million, according to RFM, surfaced only this month. RFM cannot even figure out from what unknown depths it came from.

Thus, Mr. BS waited for five long years to claim such a huge amount for which, if I were he and I couldn't get it, I would even sue my own mother. Oops!

* * *

BUT thanks to Mr. BS, investors fear they cannot enjoy their profits from the Cosmos deal. San Miguel is prepared to pay P2.5 million for Cosmos minority shares.

Under the tender offer rule, for the sake of cell phone smugglers in high places, the buyer of the majority of a listed company should offer the same price to the minority.

A few months ago, when the stock market started talking about RFM's plan to sell Cosmos, the public started buying up its stocks for a possible premium in a buy-out.

The price then was still low, and then it went up there at about a few feet before the stratosphere. With the San Miguel buy-out, investors can expect a windfall.

That's why Mr. BS is so unpopular in the market, his face is unanimously voted as most likely replacement for the iron bell that they bang at the start and end of trading.

* * *

STILL, in his court pleadings, Mr. BS actually asked to stop the deal between San Miguel and RFM because he wanted a rescission of the contract between his group and Cosmos.

The sale of the group's 10 soft drink companies was null and void, Mr. BS alleged, because RFM did something illegal in the contract. And that was, the use of blank space.

I am serious, Cyrus, because Mr. BS really claims in his court pleadings that it's illegal to use blank space. Yet he and his group signed the contract? Yes they did!

Whadayano, it so happens that the blank space represented the amount of taxes, which Mr. BS and company should pay for the sale of their 10 companies.

In a way, Mr. BS is saying that RFM wanted to fill in the blanks by itself. Mr. BS fears it was meant to "minimize the tax impact." So what was that—sneak a tax?

* * *

WHAT a way to say it, huh, "minimize the tax impact!" Try that to the wife! Sorry, dear, but I fail to minimize the impact of taxes on my wallet. Let's see if you get some tonight.

Up to now, anyway, Mr. BS says that his group does not even know the final figure that RFM put in the blank space. Thus he accuses RFM of bad faith. Hmm.

From what I gather, it seems that RFM promised Mr. BS and company that it would first get their approval on the mysterious amount. They are a very trusting group!

But no such approval ever went a mile within RFM's way, according to Mr. BS, and that's why he is worried. He says he is in grave danger. From what? The Isafp?

It turns out that, under the agreement between RFM and Mr. BS's group, RFM would take care of the tax payment. What if the government now runs after him?

The taxes due the government from the sale of those 10 soft drink companies amounts to ... well, only P260 million. Not a small sum, in short.

Where in the world will Mr. BS get it, for example, if by some remote chance, the BIR gets wind of the alleged minimization of the tax impact done by RFM? His mother?

* * *

IN newspaper reports so far, anyway, RFM's standard answer to Mr. BS's allegation is a simple "all taxes due on the transaction have been paid." Period.

As if it is trying to show incontrovertible proof to such a claim, RFM also claims that there is no assessment on the alleged tax liability. Period.

Sure, Pastor, it is extremely difficult in this country for anybody not—repeat, NOT—to get any assessment from the BIR for unpaid misdeclared taxes.

Really, it's easier for the eye of the camel to enter the kingdom of the needle, or something like that, than it is to avoid BIR assessment on any, er, minimized tax impact.

Me, I just thought it would be easy to verify who is telling the truth here. Let's ask the BIR. So, boss Rene, how much taxes did RFM actually pay? *Abangan.*

iPeople, Singapore firms to put up IT centers in RP

THE YUCHENGCO group's iPeople Inc. and Mapua Institute of Technology have signed an agreement with software giant Sun Microsystems Pte. Ltd. and the Nanyang Technological University of Singapore for the establishment of Java business resource centers in the country.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, iPeople spokesperson Guia Santos-Qua said iPeople and MIT signed the deal with the two Singaporean groups during President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit to Singapore last week.

"The intention is for the parties to engage in various initiatives with the objective of supporting the development of Java competency in the Philippines," Qua said.

She did not disclose the amount of investments that would be poured into the project but said another agreement covering specific implementation details would be firmed up by next month.

Qua said the four companies would establish the Java centers to encourage the local IT industry to adopt the Java technology and develop innovative Java-based products, applications and services.

Part of the program is the establishment of Java centers in existing academic and training institutions and provide training to existing IT workforce.

Sun Microsystems is the developer of Java, a general purpose programming system with a number of features that make the language suited for use on the worldwide Web. Small Java applications are called Java applets. They can be downloaded from a Web server and ran by browsers such as Netscape or Explorer.

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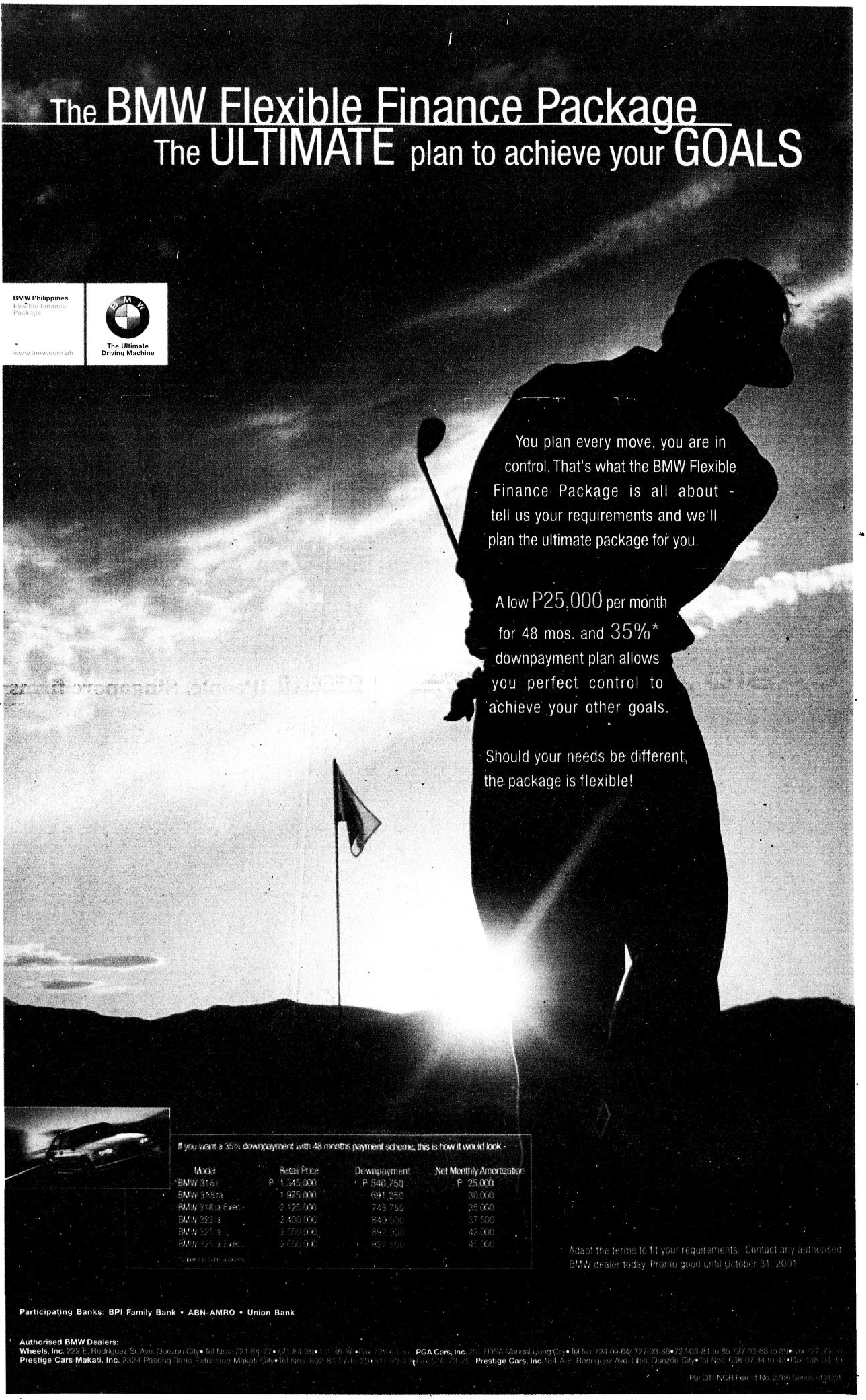

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BMW 323 ia	2,400,000	840,000	37,500
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2786 Series of 2001

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As Of Wednesday, Aug. 29, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	1,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	63	63	62.5	62.5	35,600
China Banking Corp.	620	660	620	660	43,020
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	31.5	31.5	31	31	90,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	199	201	198	200	64,350
Prudential Bank	420	420	420	420	6,820
Philippine National Bank	53	53	52.5	53	265,200
Phil. Savings Bank	29	29	29	29	1,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	5,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	30,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1510	1510	1510	1510	940
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1225	1230	1225	1230	980
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	34	34	34	34	27,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	770,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	645	645	645	645	1,240
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	5,200,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	520	520	515	515	54,280
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.031	0.032	0.03	0.031	14,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	32	32	31.5	31.5	32,100
Manila Electric Co. B	44.5	45	44.5	45	528,700
Petron Corp.	1.82	1.82	1.8	1.8	686,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	180,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	30,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.92	1.92	1.9	1.92	155,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.39	0.41	0.38	0.41	2,270,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	130,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	50,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	70,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	84,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	978,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.5	13	13	116,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	25.5	26	24.5	26	115,400
Pure Foods Corp. A	110	110	110	110	100
Pure Foods Corp. B	120	120	120	120	10
RFM Corp.	2.16	2.18	2.14	2.14	492,000
San Miguel Corp. A	40.5	40.5	40	40	11,800
San Miguel Corp. B	55	55	55	55	82,400
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	414,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	9,580,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.86	0.87	0.86	0.87	60,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	44,980,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0095	0.0095	0.0085	0.0085	202,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	200,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	30,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	70,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	25,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.64	1.64	2,413,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	50,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.135	0.125	0.125	8,420,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	50,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	30	30.5	30	30.5	543,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	100,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.245	550,000
Ionics Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,800
Ipeople Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	10,000
Ipeople Inc. B	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	4,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	70,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings B	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.6	510,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	60,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.69	0.7	120,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.38	0.38	760,000
Music Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	200,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.46	0.5	0.46	0.5	320,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5	5	5	5	2,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.53	0.54	0.52	0.53	450,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.46	0.46	210,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	180,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	300,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	34	34	33	33.5	74,800
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	11.00	11	11	11	2,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	91,100,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	7,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.75	4.75	700,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.37	0.39	0.37	0.38	6,770,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	550,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.9	1.9	1.86	1.88	1,586,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	2,750,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	2,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6	6.1	6	6	1,574,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	1,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	9,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	15,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3	1,032,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.042	0.042	0.04	0.042	20,800,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	320,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. B	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	300,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	15,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	9,300,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	200,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	700,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	500,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	11,000,000
Pacifica	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	1,900,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	30,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	555,610	65,728,300.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	390,505,630	144,242,020.00
PRO	13,962,000	19,098,540.00
Mining	72,652,000	3,021,880.00
OIL	15,630,000	136,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	493,326,240	232,286,740.00
AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	527.89	DOWN 0.51
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,800.87	DOWN 15.84
PRO	489.73	DOWN 5.29
Mining	1,223.53	DOWN 32.33
OIL	1.50	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	777.28	DOWN 4.04
Composite	1,270.57	DOWN 11.92

NO. OF ADVANCES: 15; NO. OF DECLINES: 44; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 47; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 106; NO. OF TRADES: 1,459

CURRENCIES

August 29, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.096491	1.000000	51.1060
Japan	Yen	0.009127	0.008324	0.4254
United Kingdom	Pound	1.592763	1.452600	74.2366
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.140757	0.128370	6.5605
Switzerland	Franc	0.659107	0.601106	30.7201
Canada	Dollar	0.712841	0.650111	33.2246
Singapore	Dollar	0.626030	0.570939	29.1784
Australia	Dollar	0.580462	0.529381	27.0545
Bahrain	Dinar	2.908620	2.652661	135.5669
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.293180	0.267380	13.6647
Brunei	Dollar	0.625851	0.570776	29.1701
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000122	0.000111	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.024763	0.022584	1.1542
UAE	Dirham	0.298609	0.272331	13.9177
Korea	Won	0.000863	0.000787	0.0402
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.912000	46.6087
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.466298	23.8306
France	Franc	0.152450	0.139034	7.1055
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453761	0.413848	21.1501
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.066278	3.3872
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022608	1.1554
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000471	0.0241
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.153387	7.8390
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004549	0.2325
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005481	0.2801
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022608	1.1554
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.158001	59.1808

ABS-CBN raising ₱3B for expansion

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. is raising P3 billion in fresh financing to beef up its infrastructure and face stiffer competition with the entry of telecom giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. into rival GMA-7 Network Inc.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, ABS-CBN vice president Randolph Estrellado said the company's board had approved the issuance of new debt papers.

Half of the issuance will consist of notes or short-term IOUs while the rest will consist of bonds to be sold to qualified holders, usually institutional investors.

At least P1 billion of the proceeds from the offerings will be used to augment the company's P3.5-billion budget for capital expenditure this year while the rest is for future expansion activities.

Among the company's future plans is to tap offshore markets for its television programs such as soap operas. The strategy is to buy into foreign broadcasting stations within the Southeast Asian region in order to export these programs.

The P3.5-billion capital program for this year is P1 billion or 40-percent higher than the budget last year. All of the company's P2.3 billion in profits last year had already been budgeted as part of the program.

A big portion of the budget is for building infrastructure to make sure that ABS-CBN, the flagship company of the Lopez group, would be digitally ready.

ABS-CBN is also constructing a new ABS-CBN complex within the company compound in order to house three new fully digital studios and more office space.

Likewise part of the expansion plan is to strengthen ABS-CBN's subsidiaries, particularly Studio 23 which caters to the upper scale audience.

ABS-CBN believes it has enough leeway to borrow because it is underleveraged, with a 40-percent net debt-to-equity ratio.

With PLDT buying into GMA-7, analysts expect ABS-CBN to work harder to maintain its leadership and cope with the race toward convergence.

The PLDT group, which is controlled by Hong Kong-based conglomerate First Pacific Co. Ltd., has entered the broadcasting business in order to provide the content for its initiatives toward convergence, or the eventual fusion of telecommunications, broadcast and Internet services.

DISCLOSURES

THE BOARD of **Bankard Inc.** approved the resignation of Tadeo F. Hilado as corporate secretary and director. Appointed were Marcelo C. Dy to replace him as corporate secretary and Guia Margarita Y. Santos-Qua as assistant corporate secretary.

* * *

RFM Corp. clarified that the Quezon City RTC-Branch 216 extended by 17 days the TRO of **Cosmos Bottling Corp.** proceeding with the sale of defendant corporations and their properties to **San Miguel Corp.** and/or third persons/entities insofar as it involves the properties of the plaintiffs transferred to **Cosmos Visayas Bottlers Inc.** in 1997.

* * *

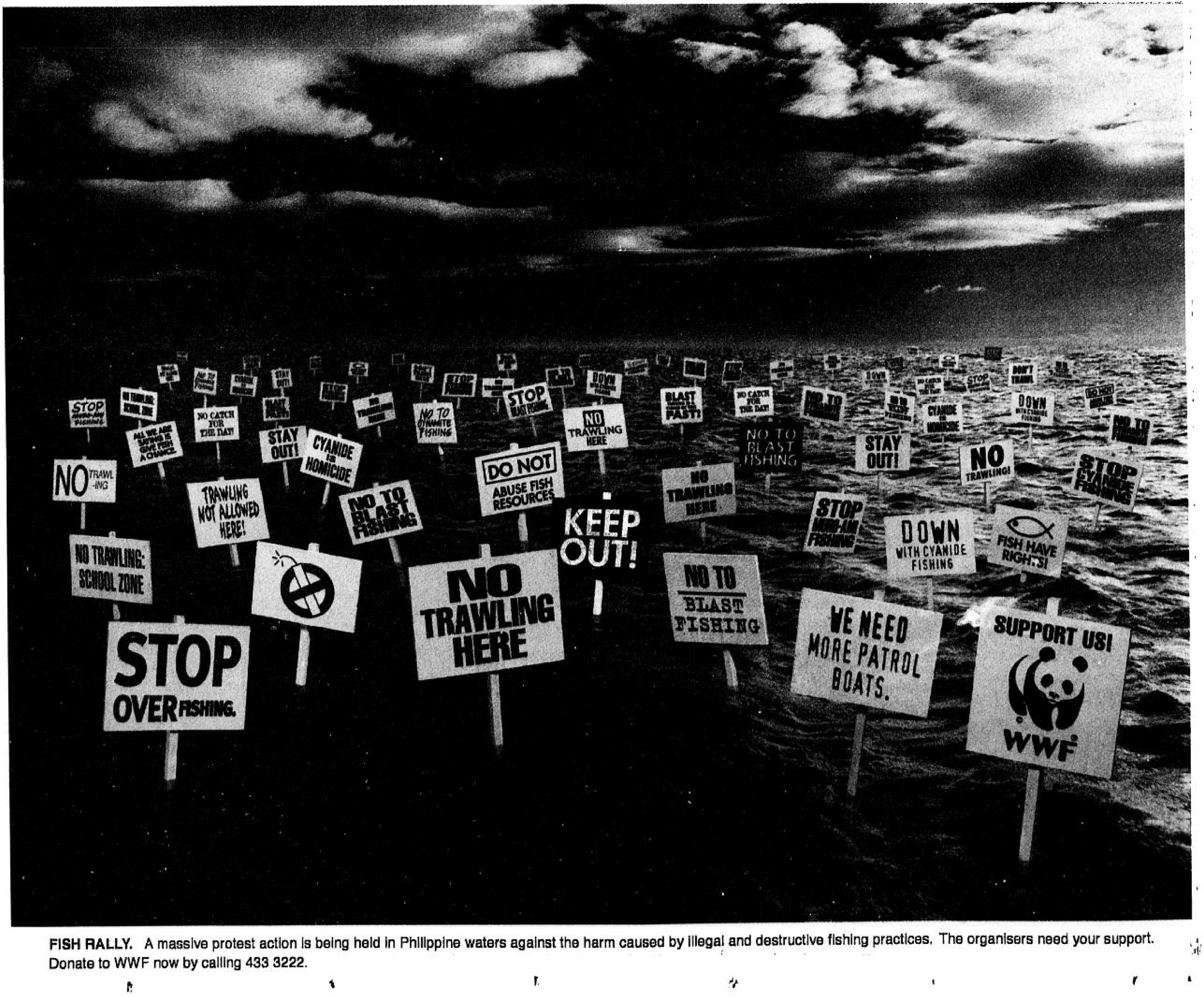
PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. clarified that they continue to explore the possibility of entering into the DTH (direct-to-home video) business. It also clarified that the company does not control **Nation Broadcasting Corp.**

* * *

BELLE Corp. clarified that neither the company nor **Belle Jai-Alai Corp.** has received any written notification of the Supreme Court decision regarding jai-alai.

Compiled by Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

This space was provided by Philippine Daily Inquirer, a Corporate Partner of WWF-Philippines.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



FISH RALLY. A massive protest action is being held in Philippine waters against the harm caused by illegal and destructive fishing practices. The organisers need your support. Donate to WWF now by calling 433 3222.

Gateway cuts 4,000 jobs

SAN DIEGO—Struggling personal computer maker Gateway has announced it is laying off about 4,700 employees—25 percent of its global workforce—as it tries to cope with an increasingly bleak market.

Gateway will immediately close all of its company-owned operations in Malaysia, Singapore, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. The company will also close customer service and sales centers in Hampton, Virginia; Vermillion, South Dakota; Salt Lake City; and Lake Forest.

The announcement came weeks after Gateway said it would close its European headquarters in Dublin, Ireland.

About 15 percent, or 2,200, of the company's 16,500 US workers will lose their jobs.

Gateway cut about 3,000 jobs in January.

Before the cuts were announced, Gateway employed nearly 19,000 workers worldwide.

Eric Rothdeutsch, a computer industry analyst for Robertson Stephens in San Francisco, said investors should "sit on the sidelines" until Gateway had demonstrated it could move away from its core hardware business and into services.

The restructuring is the equivalent of "changing the company charter," Rothdeutsch said.

"I think the jury is going to be out for quite a while until they start to show some results," he said.

Gateway said it would take a one-time charge of $475 million in the third quarter due to the restructuring.

In July, Gateway said it planned to move beyond PC sales. The company said it would aggressively market home networks, computer consulting and financing packages for consumers, schools and small businesses.

The PC industry saw its first-ever drop in sales this year. Some analysts predict it won't recover until next year or early 2003. *AP*

Export slump seen pushing Thailand into new recession

BANGKOK—Thailand probably slipped into technical recession in the second quarter as its economy reeled from the global trade slump, economists said, but the slowdown should not be as severe as in many Asian countries.

The National Economic and Social Development Board, Thailand's state think tank, is set to release second-quarter data for gross domestic product on Sept. 17. Most analysts predict it will show a small decline from the first quarter.

This would be the second consecutive quarterly decline in Thailand's GDP after a seasonally adjusted 0.25-percent quarter-on-quarter fall in the January-March period.

If this happens, Thailand would technically be in a recession, after two quarterly GDP contractions in a row. But that's still some way off what many people think of as a real recession—a sustained year-on-year economic contraction.

Economists say Thailand should avoid the kind of severe slump that has hit nearby Singapore as it has a far larger domestic economy and is less dependent on high-technology exports, hard hit by the slowdown in the United States and Japan.

Whatever happens, Thailand is unlikely to face another economic slump on the scale seen in the 1997-1998 Asian crisis, when a sharp devaluation of the Thai baht helped trigger a collapse in currencies across Asia and plunged Thailand into deep recession.

The Thai economy contracted by 1.4 percent in 1997 and by 10.8 percent in 1998.

"I don't think people are expecting anything as severe as the 1998 recession," said David Cohen, director of macroeconomic forecasting at S&P/MMS in Singapore.

Analysts expect Singapore to see about a 2-percent GDP contraction this year, while Taiwan, another major electronics exporter, would likely see its economy shrink by one percent.

But Thai exports are more diverse than many of its neighbors, and the country also has a huge domestic market with a population of 63 million, many of whom work on the land or in industries that produce goods used locally.

The Thai stock market has been one of Asia's best performers this year, with the benchmark index up around 25 percent on the year to Wednesday.

The Thai economy expanded 1.8 percent year-on-year during the first three months of 2001 after a 3.2-percent growth in the fourth quarter of 2000.

But Thailand is not immune from the world economy.

Thai exports, accounting for over 60 percent of the country's GDP, slumped 0.9 percent year-on-year during the first half year.

Analysts, including those at private think tank Thailand Development Research Institute, forecast Thai exports will fall by as much as 6 percent in 2001.

"It is a very sluggish picture," said Cohen. "We are seeing the effect of the slowdown. Although everyone is waiting for a pick-up, so far there's no evidence of a turnaround yet."

Suvit Patangkharo of SCB Research Institute estimated that Thailand's GDP contracted 4.8 percent in the second quarter from the previous three months. *Reuters*

Radical reforms sought to boost Japan stocks

TOKYO—Japan's financial watchdog has outlined proposals to reform a capital gains tax to the ruling coalition parties in a bid to encourage investors back to Japanese stock markets as share prices trade at 17-year lows.

"We went to meet with tax officials of the three ruling parties to explain our proposal to reform the tax system," a spokesperson for the Financial Services Agency said.

"It will be the basis for further discussion among the parties," he said.

The FSA plans to reduce a heavy tax on equity capital gains—blamed for deterring players from speculating on the markets—to 10 percent from 26 percent.

In exchange, a withholding tax on equity sales should be raised slightly to around 2 percent from 1.05 percent at present and be extended beyond the end of March 2003, when it was due to expire, it said.

As part of the plans, the FSA suggested that individual investors be allowed to carry over losses for tax deductions from stock trading for up to five years. Mutual funds would also be eligible for this scheme.

The agency plans to halve a tax on dividends to 10 percent from 20 percent and double a tax exemption on gains made on the sale of shares held for more than a year from 1 million yen ($8,300) to 2 million yen.

Individuals who hold mutual funds for more than one year would also qualify for a 2-million-yen exemption from capital gains and dividend payments.

The special tax-exemption scheme is due to expire at end-March 2003, but the FSA hopes to extend it indefinitely.

To promote stock investments by elderly traders aged 60 or over, the FSA has proposed a special inheritance tax. *AFP*

FOREIGN BRIEFS

HK, Singapore lead Asia in corporate governance

SINGAPORE—Hong Kong and Singapore have the highest standards of corporate behavior in Asia, but the region still needs to improve its communications with investors, according to a US expert,

"Singapore and Hong Kong are head and shoulders above some of the others in the region," said Carolyn Brancato, a director from the New York-based US Conference Board.

Corporate governance covers how companies conduct themselves in terms of ethics, transparency and accountability. *AFP*

Global PC market still strong

SINGAPORE—The personal computer market in the United States is becoming saturated, but the global PC market is strong and many developed countries have low PC ownership rates, according to a Nielsen//Netratings report.

People in Asia-Pacific countries with high PC ownership rates—South Korea, Australia, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong and New Zealand—are beginning to own more than one home computer, the report said.

"The key opportunity in this region (the Asia-Pacific) is the trend toward households owning more than one PC in the home," Hoe Chin Fee, managing director of Nielsen//Netratings Southeast Asia, said in the report. *AP*

Wall Street rattled

WASHINGTON—An unexpected drop in US consumer confidence in August rattled financial markets Tuesday, but economists said the decline was not evidence of a looming recession.

The Conference Board reported that its consumer confidence index fell to 114.3 from a revised 116.3 in July. Analysts expected a figure of 117.5.

"The deteriorating US job market dampened consumer spirits this month," said Lynn Franco, director of the group's consumer research center. *AFP*

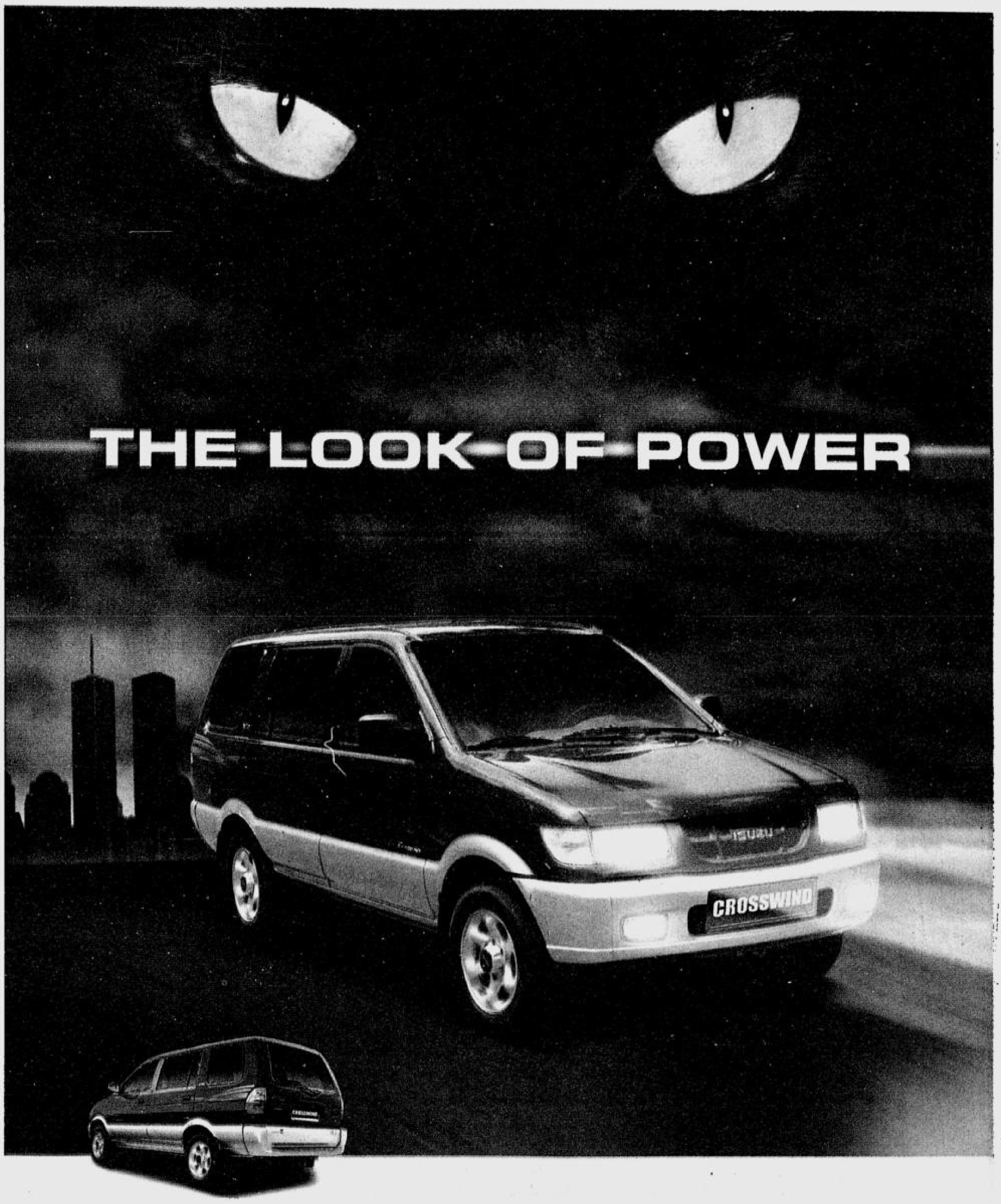
Japan to halve bad loans

TOKYO—Japan aims to halve its mountain of bad loans to 7 to 10 trillion yen ($58 billion to $83 billion) over the next seven years provided there is a gradual economic recovery, a government official said Wednesday.

The Financial Services Agency said it hoped the amount of bad loans held by 15 major Japanese banks would fall to that level by March 2008 from 17.4 trillion yen in March this year.

"Our scenario is based on our understanding that the Japanese economy will pick up after two or three years," the agency official said.

"We will present our target of bad loans to the 15 banks and exchange opinions with them about it," he said, adding the government hoped the banks would write off bad loans in line with its scenario. *AFP*



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MOTORING

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

Bill seeks to regulate use of cell phones while driving

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

BLAH
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THE PHILIPPINES generates 120 million text messages a day among its 9 million cellular phone subscribers. It isn't surprising, therefore, that in the texting capital of the world Filipino mobile phone users squeeze in every available time thumbing numbers and letters on their phones. Even while driving.

Driving and texting are not compatible activities. The Traffic Management Group report showed that from 1998 to 2000, road accidents caused by motorists using cellular phones while driving had increased. From three reported accidents in 1998, it climbed to 14 in 1999 and to 40 in 2000. Road accidents settled without police intervention were not included in the report, and may account for an even bigger number of driving-while-calling-related accidents, officials say.

Risks to life and limbs

Congress seems to have seen enough to act on a potential highway catastrophe. Rep. Augusto Boboy Syjuco introduced last week the Cellular Phone Safety Act—or House Bill 2149—regulating motorists' use of handheld cellular phones.

Syjuco said that this practice of texting or calling while driving poses risks to the life and limbs not only of the motorists but also of pedestrians and bystanders.

The bill defines handheld cellular phone as "a cellular phone without the aid of a hands-free device or a contraption of similar nature." The use of handheld cellular phone refers to "the act of calling, receiving a call or the sending and receiving of text and/or picture messages." It stated that "no motorist (driver) on board a moving motor vehicle may use a handheld cellular phone."

The Land Transportation Office would be the lead agency in implementing the Act. The National Telecommunications Commission and other concerned agencies are tasked to assist.

LTO traffic education chief Daisy Jacobo said that this bill would make it appear that Congress is "alarmist." Lawmakers, she countered, have become proactive instead.

"Filipinos abhor preventive measures, and this bill, if it becomes a law, may save only a few lives but these few lives are still important. Would we wait for the figures to exhibit an alarming trend at uncontrollable proportions?" she stressed.

Jacobo said, however, that the measure would be another headache in the making.

"Now we are being given another law, but we don't have any funds or equipment to implement it. And then we'll be blamed for not implementing it. I just hope that if this bill becomes a law and pushes through, we'll at least be given operational funds for its implementation."

Issues involved

Jacobo enumerated several issues involved:

- It might violate the right to free expression.
- It would be difficult for traffic aides to notice drivers using mobile phones in luxury cars with heavily tinted windows. And even if they do, would these aides dare apprehend these influential motorists?
- The possibility of enforcers to "milk" motorists and the denial of motorists, especially if there are no witnesses. 'Do you hold the phone instead of the wheel?

Does using your cellular phone while driving affect your focus? Texting has become a fresh distraction, especially during a bumper to bumper traffic jam. You say it keeps you awake more than your car stereo does. At the very least, the phone is interactive.

Resentment

Some mobile phone users may resent the restrictions imposed on them and on their use of their communication tools. A webpage listing the common objections to cell phone legislation can be found at www.geocities.com/morganleepena/rebuttal.htm. Some of the reasons are quoted here:

- "Banning the use of handheld cell phones while driving is an infringement of my personal freedom."
- "There are already laws that punish careless and reckless drivers appropriately for reckless driving. We don't need another one specifically for cell phones."
- "There isn't enough evidence to prove that using a cell phone while driving causes accidents. Cellular telephones are important devices for reporting emergencies."

Necessary for others

Lisa de la Cruz (not her real name) is a sales agent from a leading car company. She claims to be an "expert" in the art of using her mobile phone while driving. She says she has mastered this practice because she is on call every day and at anytime. Almost all sales agents in the field, she said, are similarly "skilled." She believes it is necessary in her business.

The phone's screen and keypad, she explains, have become part of the dashboard readings of her car. Lisa's eyes can just occasionally glance at them just like glancing at the gas indicator or speedometer.

"I'm already used to it since I have memorized the (positions of the) phone keys," she says. However, she says she welcomes any law that would ban her from using her mobile phone while driving.

Dr. Lauro Navarete (not his real name) is a young doctor and chief of a unit of a premier hospital in the Quezon City area. Being on call forces him to send short text messages or make a few calls while driving.

"Although it's not advisable, I do it almost every day, but if it's really a long message or a long call, I make it a point to park on the roadside and on well-lit places," he explains. "I get messages while traveling and reply with short messages. I don't recommend it to everybody." Navarete also welcomes the law if it would be for the greater good.

During a public hearing of House Bill 2149 last week, a former congressman admitted, in a speech, that he was involved in a minor vehicular accident while he used his mobile phone while driving on the road.

A recent news item that appeared in the Associated Press on Aug. 28 cited New York as the first state to ban the use of the handheld cell phone while driving. It mentioned the case of lawyer Jane Wagner who was talking on her cell phone while driving that she thought she only struck a deer. It wasn't until the next morning when she heard about a 15-year-old victim of a hit-and-run. She didn't have to second guess who the guilty party was.

BMW's surprise

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

WHENEVER a new car is launched on the market, motoring and business journalists are treated to spectacular entertainment complete with fireworks, live bands, scantily clad models, dancing girls and pop singers. I expected more of the same last Friday when BMW launched a new variant of its 3 Series—and was pleasantly surprised.

I really shouldn't have been surprised, since BMW's invitation to cocktails had forewarned: "Prepare to be blown away." That should have clued me in, ditto the words "Urban Free Spirit" embossed all caps on the invite.

The fact that aside from motoring journalists, the lifestyle press and BMW clients, prospective as well as actual, were also invited should have served as another clue to a surprise coming up. But I wasn't very observant that evening in the lobby of the NBC Tent at The Fort, although I did notice that this wasn't the usual crowd you see at car launchings. This was a chic, youngish, with-it crowd.

Mystery and suspense escalated as the guests, while sipping their drinks, noted that four burly bouncers, clad in black, guarded the doors to deter anyone from peeking into the ballroom to see what was taking so long. After all, the invitation said 6:30 p.m. and it was already 8:00 before BMW Philippines Corp. president Mark Gilbert delivered his brief welcome remarks and the doors were finally opened.

Only one pair of doors was opened (the Tent has two) and as we entered, we found ourselves in a dark hallway with white curtains serving as walls. Suddenly we were standing in a hazily lit circular room or oval, surrounded by pulsating music and a series of large, black-and-white pictures of Nature scenes being screened on white backdrop curtains around us. As the images changed, a voice-over gently urged the guests to relax and commune with Nature's elements and sure enough, when the photo representing Water was projected on the curtained walls, we momentarily felt a fine mist of almost invisible water droplets. Taking the cue, some of us sat on the white-upholstered benches that were scattered about the oval. So this was "the synergy of music, lights and the elements" promised in BMW's invitation!

Gradually, the tempo of the music accelerated and the pictures changed from Nature to urban street scenes until the familiar kidney grille and headlight scallops of a BMW hove into view. This was the signal for the side curtains to rise and the spotlights to focus on two scintillating 2001 BMW 325Ci convertibles entering the room simultaneously. The driver of the oxford green topdown was socialite Tessa Prieto-Valdes in a dazzling evening gown, while the bright red car was driven by an equally attractive young man (not being one of the glitterati, I didn't know who he was). Guests stood up to applaud and photographers sprang into action while the music played on. There were no speeches, thank heavens.

The dramatic presentation of the BMW 325Ci, staged by events organizer Eric Edralin, was only one of several product launches held by BMW this year, reflecting BMW's aggressive expansion in the Philippine luxury performance car market. Aside from four 6-cylinder variants of the 3 Series (the 2001 325i sedan, touring car, coupé and convertible), BMW has added the 2001 2.2-liter Z3 roadster, the 3.0-liter Z3 coupé and the 735iL V8 saloon to its range of available models and will launch the X5 sport utility vehicle next month. The introduction of so many luxury models at a time when the economy is stalled and car sales are down may be puzzling, but on the other hand it shows confidence in the future of the Philippine market. Rather than take a "wait and see" attitude, BMW is positioning itself to be good and ready with a broad range of car models and services when the economy bounces back. Like last Friday's surprise, that shows class and flair on the part of BMW, don't you agree?

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Corduroy pillows: they're making headlines!

* * *

E-mail comments to aida_sevilla @pacific.net.ph

Ford SuperCrew: The coolest daddy wagon around

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO

FORD'S latest contribution to the country's traffic mess comes with four doors, a huge cargo hold and enough hauling power to tow a ship. It's big, it's bad and it's beautiful. And Ford calls it the F-150 SuperCrew.

If you've seen the rather impudent advertisements, you know that Ford isn't messing around with this truck. "Be Afraid. Be Very Afraid," says one ad. There is good reason for this positioning. Ford subtly wants the SuperCrew to be the coolest daddy wagon, intimidating as it looks, but with a silent, domestic side to it. Though it could be used to tow the jet skis and motocross bikes around, it is more often seen in school parking lots and supermarkets.

Based on the 4x4 Lariat, the SuperCrew brings a fresh concept to sports utility vehicles, the sports utility truck. Formerly an unknown breed, the monstrous Ford is a tad longer than your standard F-150—almost 19 feet from end to end. And a bit more stretched out, once you plop down the tailgate and put the optional extender in place.

Under the hood hides the gas-gulping V8 mated only to an automatic transmission. You get a mere 220 hp with 398 Nm of torque from a 4.6-liter SOHC engine. That's enough power to haul a small ship—well over 3,000 pounds of towing strength. Lining up at the gas pump will be a long one because a full tank is 95 liters.

Truck lovers will like the idea of the SuperCrew—its macho as hell looks and in full trim—rivaling the other killer F-150, the SVT Lightning.

Aimed at a more practical market, the SuperCrew wants to provide fun to more domestic chores. Thus the long cargo hold can extend up to seven feet with optional attachments and the 60/40 split rear seats can carry interior cargo safely, as well as shuttle the kids to school in envy-me fashion.

There is limited slip differential for those really huge humps, extreme right angles and more than slippery conditions. Politicians will enjoy the moonroof; audiophiles, the sound system; mothers, the extended rear seating with child seat tethers; and fathers, the intimidation it will cause neighbors and colleagues.

Safety features include twin airbags, ABS braking, side-door antiintrusion beams and all sorts of impact absorbing points and cross members along the chassis.

Other standard features are the CD changer, tilt steering, vanity mirrors on both sunvisors, electrochromic rear view mirrors, overhead console with map lights and compass, rear reading lamps, privacy lamps and others the brochure or website (www.ford. com.ph) will gladly enumerate for you.

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FORD/p.B7

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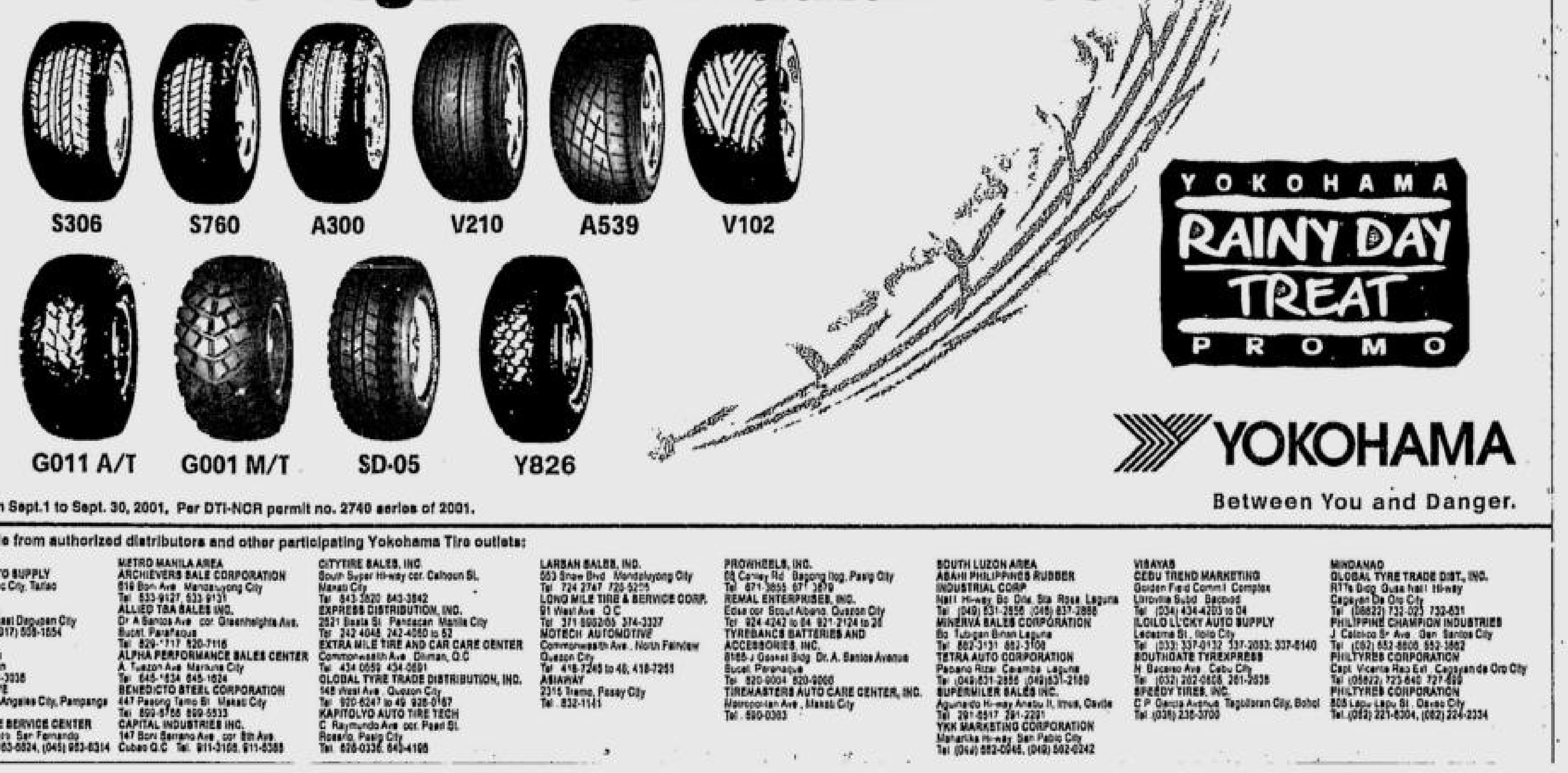

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Tires and alloy wheels galore at Motorshow

BY JUN ALANO

TIRE makers and importers, alongside the country's top alloy wheel manufacturers, will again make their presence felt in the upcoming Motorshow International by putting on display and offering their premium products during the show from Oct. 3 to 7 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Motorshow director general Marisa Nallana said the tire and alloy wheel exhibitors promised to showcase a wide range of quality products in line with the event's thrust of offering motoring enthusiasts and the public an intelligent choice.

The tire exhibitors include Armstrong Enterprises Co., dealer of imported Toyo tires from Japan. The company also carries a line of imported alloy wheels under the Lenso brand from Singapore.

Sahlie Go, Armstrong account executive, said they have Toyo tires for cars, 4x4 sports utility vehicles as well as off the road tires that will be displayed at Motorshow's 12th edition.

A sister company of Armstrong, Tyremart Inc., on the other hand, will bring in Dunlop tires that are also imported from Japan. Tyremart has Dunlop tires for cars, 4x4s, racing tires both for circuit and rallye racing, tires for go-karts, light trucks, trucks and buses, forklifts, as well as off the road and agricultural tires like tractors.

Another important Motorshow player is Yokohama Tire Sales Philippines Inc., exclusive distributor of Japan-made Yokohama tires. Yokohama boasts of a complete line of tires for cars, jeeps, utility vehicles, vans, sports utility vehicles, pickups, mini trucks and heavy duty trucks.

Among the alloy wheel makers, Quezon City-based Silverwind Alloy Castings Inc. remains as one of the most active participants of Motorshow, having joined most of the exhibit's past editions, according to general manager Samuel Liuson.

Liuson said Silverwind manufactures aluminum alloy wheels of different sizes, from 12" to 17"

TIRES/P.B7

Toyota Echo: The details redefine roominess

BY RAYMOND B. TRIBDINO
AND TESSA R. SALAZAR

LIKE the original RAV-4, Toyota's Echo breaks convention with its idiosyncratic styling and unorthodox functionality. For the first time in many years here comes a truly compact car with cavernous space and a potent yet economical engine.

Toyota's Echo is both beautiful and functional. Add fun and frugality and you've got a package that not only turns heads, it makes pockets happy, too.

Redefining roominess

Raymond: You drive while I ride. It's about time we get a professional passenger's opinion here.

Tessa: You? A professional passenger? I see your feet moving up and down. The pedals are on my side.

Raymond: Remember I travel 160 km a day. Almost every day.

Tessa: Where to? Laguna?

Raymond: Yes, please. There is an amazing amount of space in the Echo. Four tiny doors open to an unusually large ingress. You don't have to squirm into the car because of the tall roof. There is a lot of headroom and legroom. The seats are pliant and cushy, though they could use more lumbar support. The rear ELRs need adjusters.

TOYOTA Echo

Tessa: Up front it is very comfy. I'd give visibility high scores as well as driver ergonomics. And that dashboard. Looks so…space age.

Raymond: Hey! Where is the dashboard? Oh there it is.

Tessa: The center-mounted dashboard is unique in local cars though in Europe there are several models with this instrumentation setup.

Raymond: Yeah, like the Renault Twingo. But just look how Toyota correctly mixed-and-matched colors and fabrics in the car. It's really beautiful inside. If I flick this lever, the seats in the back fold up, creating much more space. There are cupholders everywhere, grab handles and multiple storage areas. But don't you think the center-mounted instrumentation is distracting?

Tessa: I don't think so. It is pretty slick and easy to read. Call it optically correct, if you must.

Raymond: The Echo has one of the largest interiors ever in a sedan of this size. Toyota realized that tall people can purchase fun econoboxes and drive them without developing back problems. It has truly redefined roominess and comfort. You wouldn't imagine it as a comfortable long distance cruiser but it does make a terrific commuting vehicle.

Tessa: And it's easy to park too. Plus no worries nor guilt since I don't occupy an entire lane of the highway or the parking lot.

Beautiful outside

Raymond: This is another example of really innovative styling. The headlights are integrated into the body work and the tolerances are quite tight all around. It's got smacks of Euro and Japanese styling that's why it is a real looker. And it's not one of those love-it, hate-it things. It's like a fluffy teddy bear. Everyone loves a fluffy teddy bear. Don't you?

Tessa: Or how about a fluffy Pokemon stuffed toy? I'd call the styling spunky, innovative is our standard here. The Echo's look is a magnet to the young market.

Raymond: I especially like it with huge tires and low-profile wheels and all those little trim parts that are ridiculously expensive.

Nimble and adroit

Raymond: How fast are we now?

Tessa: We're doing about 120.

Raymond: And it does feel like it. I expected the ride to be harsh in the back at speed, but it is extraordinarily smooth. It can get a bit jolty when the road starts to undulate but it's generally nondescript back here. How about you there?

Tessa: Driving the 5-door Echo around town and through Manila is an enjoyable task. The ride feels very much like that of a medium-sized car. It's remarkably stable and firm. It seems very safe. But the brakes are a bit, well grabby.

Raymond: Great description. The firm damping is evident only on the bumpy surfaces. Progressive suspension bits in the trailing arms in the back keep handling well managed. The large 14-inch rims and 175/65 tires add to the "grippiness" of the ride. Let me be a little technical here. The short wheelbase makes it easy to maneuver but it will produce mild understeer, as most FWD cars will, when pushed. That's easily eliminated with a reactive throttle lift-off. I agree. It's a small car that feels really solid and very safe.

Tessa: I just hope the bus and the truck drivers get to see tiny me while I overtake and appear on their side corners. Anyway, I feel the engine is powerful.

Raymond: It's got everything on paper. Toyota calls it the VVTi for Variable Valve Timing, the "i" means injection, I think. It's 1.3 liters, inline four, 16 valves, DOHC producing 85 hp at 6,000 rpm and 122 NM of torque at 4,400 rpm. A mouthful.

Tessa: What's that to me?

Raymond: It means 0 to 100 in about 100 seconds and blasting at 140 kph with enough torque to carry me and my blubber around town. Look the speedometer needle is going past 140 already!

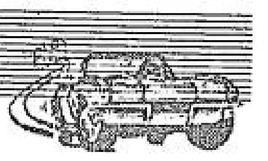
Tessa: Should I slow down? I feel a speed gun is aimed at us.

Raymond: No.

The fast and perky Toyota Echo gets an **8.5 out of 10 points.** Low scores only for ride quality in the bumps, humps, dips and ruts (which is a large percentage of all Philippine roads). Top scores for everything else, particularly fuel economy—which comes in at 12 km per liter outside the city and about 10 when trapped on Edsa and parts between. The Echo is a great little econobox with mounds of potential. Its size alone should partly solve the daily traffic mess.

Abalos-Maralit tandem: Hope in the metropolis

FULL TANK



Al S. Mendoza

NEW face, new style?

We can only hope. And let's also hope that his style will be for the good of the metropolis.

Yes, fellers. Let's all welcome the appointment of Police Supt. Luisito Maralit as the new Metro Manila commander of the traffic units of the Philippine National Police and the Metro Manila Development Authority. I do not know the guy, nor his record. But that's immaterial. What's material is, every new thing promises hope, if not a positive change.

It will be remembered that before his appointment, Maralit's predecessor was constantly at odds with Abalos, resulting in traffic jams that bugged the city left and right. As I said it here then, if the fighting did not stop between Abalos and Maralit's predecessor, where is the metropolis headed to?

To the dogs. Which really happened, fellers.

I saw Maralit's photo in the INQUIRER's Metro section the other day. He was all smiles as he shook hands with Abalos during the traditional turnover rites.

There are now telltale signs of improved traffic conditions in the city. At least in Makati, I saw a marked change on Tuesday, when traffic aides were very visible manning intersections and identified bottlenecks.

Right on, Chief Maralit. By the way, sir, are you related to Cris Maralit, another police officer of note, who was once a respected sportswriter before he joined the military?

* * *

Late is never late.

So, this congratulatory note goes to Ford Pampanga, which became the first Ford dealership to win the prestigious Blue Oval Certification in the Philippines and throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

What a big award. It spoke well of the Filipino's capability to excel against the world's best.

Upon acceptance of the award, Paul Laus, president of Ford Pampanga, said: "We are known for customer satisfaction, it has become our way of life and we have to keep outdoing ourselves. Some of our customers have been with us for 20 years and the Blue Oval Certified Program was another challenge to Ford Pampanga to raise the standards a step higher."

Here's a glass to that, Mr. Laus.

The Blue Oval Certified program embodies Ford's commitment to deliver quality products and services to customers, along with its dealer network. Ford dealers are measured on specific standards in all aspects of the customer retail experience. Criteria for certification includes Customer Viewpoint survey results, facility operations and upkeep, completion of training programs, implementation of the Ford Sales system and Quality Care Service processes.

* * *

Road repairs done in the metropolis have not been consistent. Potholes still abound, making trips a real hassle, especially at night when visibility is low.

Edsa, the city's main artery, has mini craters, specifically between Guadalupe and Quezon Avenue. Some can jar you real hard.

Some patch-up jobs have been done at the Shaw Boulevard Tunnel but then, as usual, the repairs were far from being perfect.

Do we ever have a quality-checking system from the DPWH, or whichever government agency is in charge, when we deal with repairs of city roads?

Just asking.

* * *

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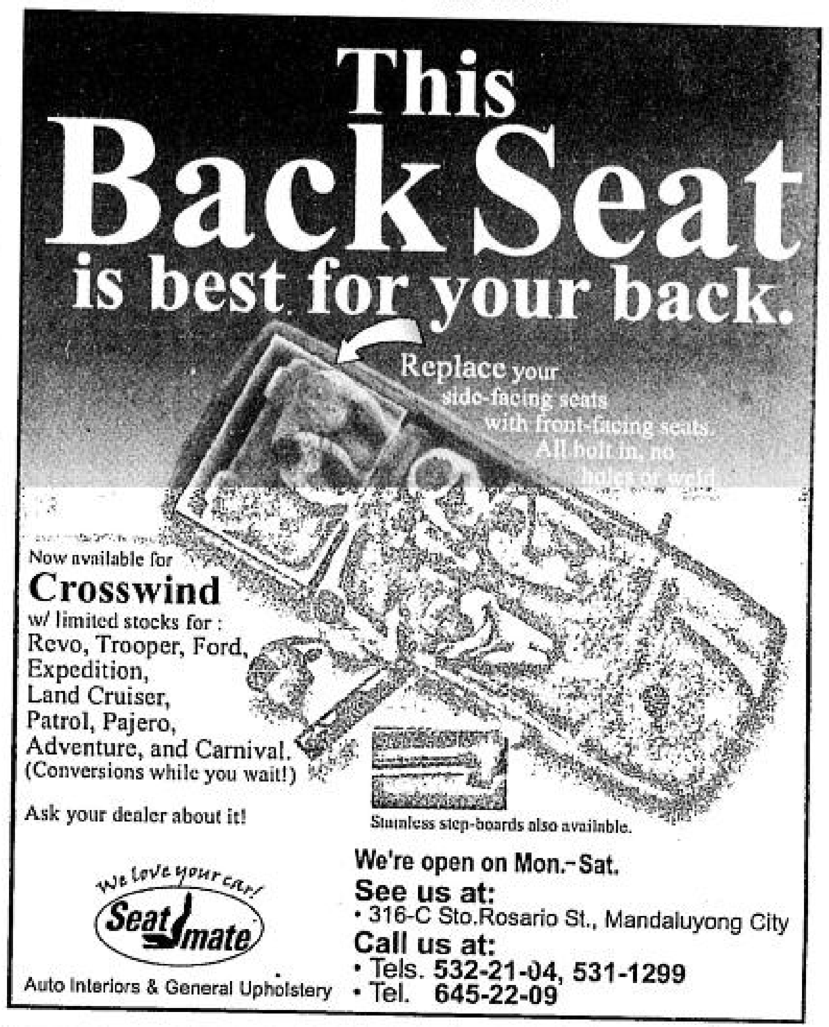

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Honda madness is back

HONDA loads up the CR-V with exciting items for a limited time only.

For every CR-V bought starting tomorrow until Sept. 2 at any Honda car dealer nationwide, buyers get a video CD stereo system, hard tire cover, door visors, Titan car alarm system and standard freebies such as LTO registration, seat cover, floor mat and tint—all for free.

Selected car accessories for the Civic, City, CR-V and Accord models will be up for sale while premium Honda items will be given away to lucky customers who will reserve their CR-Vs during the 3-day madness.

Tires…

(From page B6)

which are mostly suited to everyday car driving. He said Silverwind alloy wheels also fit passenger vans, which have become popular nowadays.

Also returning to this year's Motorshow is the Tire Importers and Traders Association of the Philippines or Titap, which will hold a tire expo during the show. The group will display various tire brands from the association members.

Ford…

(From page B6)

version and P1,610,000 in the two-tone paint job. Colors are red, blue, green, white and beige—all with clear coat. But it looks best in pitch dark black with a tasteful "SuperCrew" badge announcing its presence.

Watch out for a full test-drive of the SuperCrew here. Soon.

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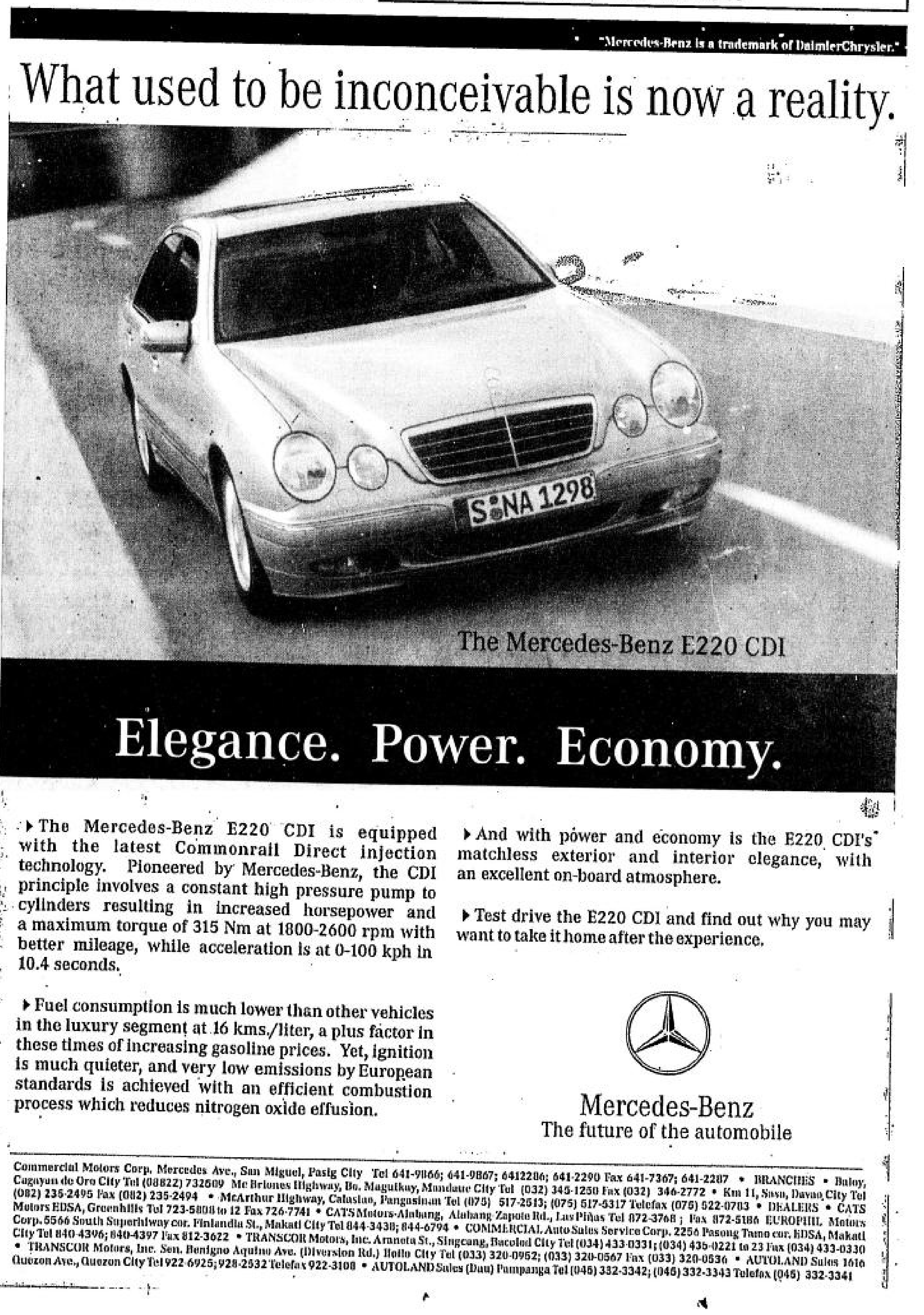

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THAILAND	US$ 45.0 Million	9.5 Million	US$ 7.5 Billion
HONGKONG	US$ 66.0 Million	13.0 Million	US$ 8.0 Billion
MALAYSIA	US$ 70.0 Million	10.0 Million	US$ 4.5 Billion
SINGAPORE	US$ 70.0 Million	7.0 Million	US$ 6.0 Billion
PHILIPPINES	**US$ 660,000.00**	**1.8 Million**	**US$ 2.5 Billion**

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Tourism-Related Industry Congress

Grand Ballroom, Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel

Aries B. Espinosa, Assistant Editor sprojects@inquirer.com.ph **Larry Mariano**, Account Manager

Tricon: Synergy for growth

> The country cannot stand to lose any more time in getting its act together in tourism. It must soon be rightly positioned to benefit from world travel milestones that are to take place in the coming decade

BY RUBY VILLAVICENCIO PAUROM

PHILIPPINE tourism will significantly yield its potentials of providing more jobs and economic opportunities when the Filipino people themselves understand the importance of their roles in tourism and positively work on these roles. The same will happen when people involved in the industry cooperate with each other to attain common growth goals better and faster.

These are the basic precepts applied by the Department of Tourism under the leadership of Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon when it waged the advocacy for a national culture of tourism and when it gathers today major tourism-related sectors that steer the course of tourism development in this country.

The Department of Tourism, in pursuit of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's thrusts for tourism revitalization, is joined by representatives of the travel and tourism trade private sector, local government units and other national agencies in the Tourism-Related Industry Congress at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

The participants agreed to a meeting of minds to plot out courses of action to implement a list of doable objectives for tourism They earlier recognized that the country's state of tourism needs a forceful push forward and that such push could only be applied when multi-sectoral tourism efforts are harmonized.

Though multifarious, the concerns for tourism growth have been classified under three clusters, namely: marketing and promotions, planning and development and tourism services.

Under tourism services are classified the concerns on tourist safety, peace and order, sanitation and pollution, traffic, immigrations, customs and social services. Areas covered by planning and product development include destination accessibility, infrastructure, product development, tourism master plans, transportation and human resource development. Marketing and promotions cover concerns over public relations efforts advertising and promotional campaigns and media familiarization trips.

Gordon said synergy among government entities and the private sector is most essential as the country should not lose any more time in making its tourism players get their act together.

"The global market is preparing for new travel milestones in the coming decades and the Asia-Pacific region is projected to figure prominently in these. Travel to and within this region is foreseen by the World Tourism Organization to achieve tremendous growth. We must soon be positioned to take advantage of these developments otherwise catching up with our neighbors will be a long and arduous process," Gordon said.

MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

GORDON

The country has slid back from the highest point of 2.2 million tourist arrivals in 1997 to 1.8 million in 2000. In 1999, Thailand posted tourist arrivals of 8.7 million, while Malaysia reported 7.9 million. Singapore had 6.9 million while Indonesia had 4.3 million.

Christopher "Perry" Alegre, president of the Philippine Tour Operators Association of the Philippines who has been designated to read the Private Sector's Message in the congress, said the industry has been looking forward to TRICON. "We see this as an important move to bring about better private sector collaboration with the government," he said.

He listed as crucial the multi-sectoral efforts to prod Congress to enact more responsive tourism laws, effective moves to counter negative perceptions abroad about the country and the provision of better tourist security.

Ricky Ordoñez, president of the Philippine Travel Agencies Association, said TRICON in itself is a positive move as it shows the determination of the leaders of the industry to "volt in" and prepare for a Philippine tourism renaissance.

"We have long been saddled with perennial problems affecting tourism. With government agencies publicly committing to respond to tourism needs, it will be easier for the private sector to assess their deeds against these commitments," he said.

Also during the congress, the DOT will sign memoranda of agreement with several government agencies to improve services aimed at facilitating travel to the Philippines and enhancing the attractions of tourism sites.

An agreement with the Department of Foreign Affairs covers implementing rules on the accreditation of Philippine tour operators handling groups or individuals from the People's Republic of China. An amendment to an earlier agreement scrapped the requirement for tour operators to post a P500,000 surety bond to enable them to handle PROC groups.

A MOA for the protection and safety of tourists will be signed with the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Philippine National Police. The agreement outlines schemes for the implementation of "Bantay Turista", among others.

Another agreement will be signed with the Department of Transportation and Communication and the Metro Manila Development Authority on the rationalization of the public utility vehicle system in the tourism industry.

Volunteer 12, 'hubs and spokes' to be presented

THE TRICON features an industry presentation of the Department of Tourism's "hubs and spokes" strategy of development and the mechanics of the Volunteer 12 promotional program.

The "hubs and spokes strategy" involves the advancement of tourism centers in the Philippines, which are the hubs, and the development of outlying destinations from the hubs or the spokes.

An essential component of the strategy is the creation of innovative tour packages out of these destinations.

From the hubs, tourists can travel to the spokes by various modes of transport. Examples of hubs are Manila, Cebu, Davao, Laoag, Clark and Zamboanga. Sample spokes from the Cebu hub include Bohol's Chocolate Hills, its centuries-old churches, the Balicasag dive site and Negros' charming town of Silay.

"Tourism Volunteer 12", on the other hand, mobilizes some 7 million overseas Filipinos worldwide as "Tourism Volunteers."

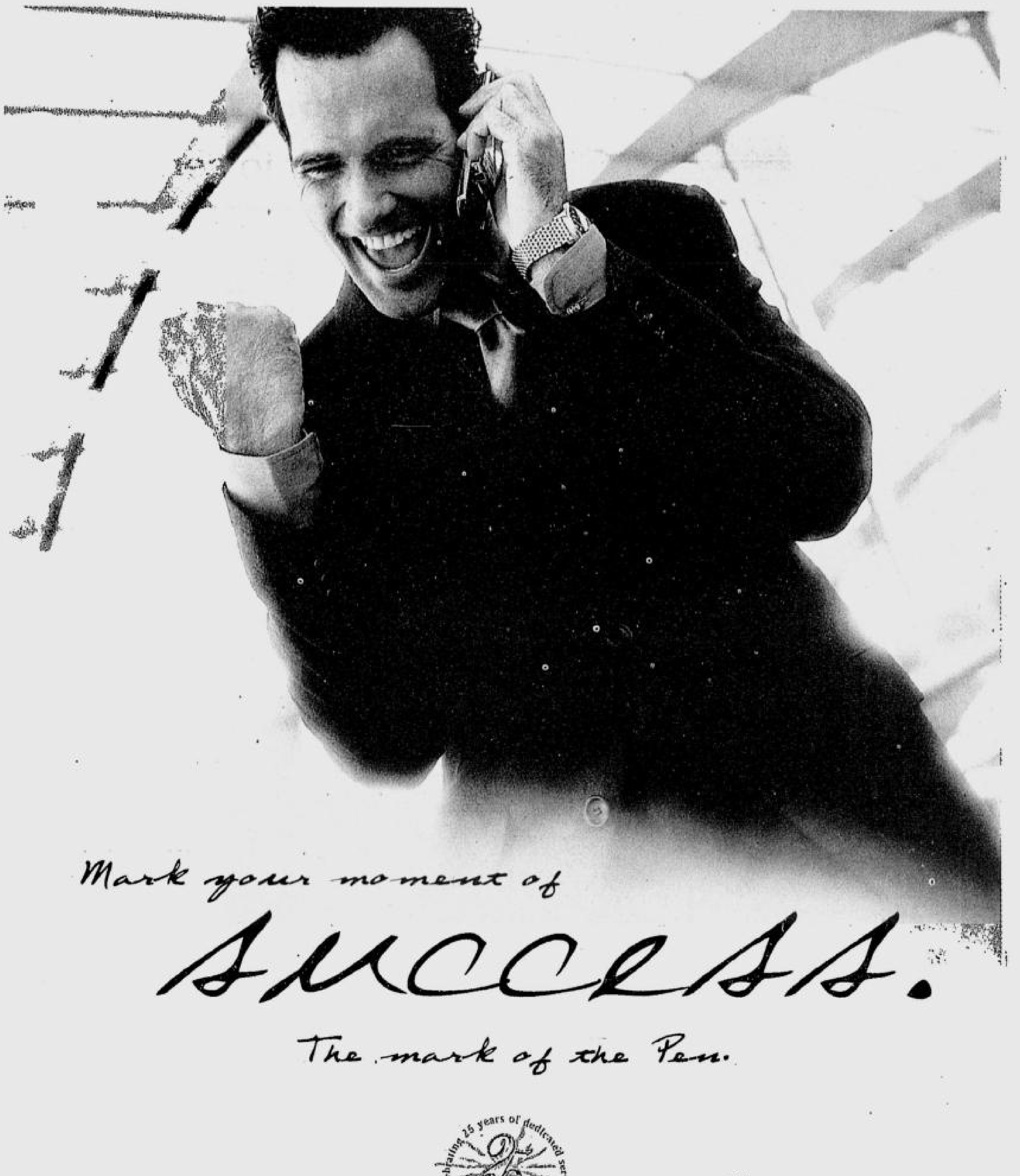
It appeals to the Filipino's sense of nationhood as the program underscores that if every OFW brings home at least one tourist, he is able to contribute to a major jump in tourist arrivals and revenue generated from tourism.

An addition of 7 million more visitors translates to US$1.057 billion more into the Philippine economy, using average visitor expenses in the country per day of visit.

The program seeks to spur OFWs to bring home 12 tourists in a package of incentives.

PROGRAM

8:00-9:00 a.m.	**Registration** – Ballroom Foyer
9:00	**OPENING CEREMONIES**
	National Anthem – DOT/PCVC Chorale
	Invocation
9:10	**Welcome Remarks**
	Usec. Evelyn Pantig
9:15	**AV Presentation**
9:23	**Message by member of the private sector**
9:33	**Introduction of the Keynote Speaker**
	Usec. Oscar P. Palabyab
9:35	**Keynote Message: Tourism Situationer**
	Sec. Richard J. Gordon
10:30	**MOA Signing between and amongst DOT, government agencies and the private sector**
	- DOT/NAIA/MIAA/DOTC
	- DOT/Bureau of Immigration/DFA
	- DOT/PNP/DILG
10:30	**Coffee Break**
11:10	**CLUSTER PRESENTATIONS**
	Culture of Tourism
	– presented by the Tourism Services Cluster
	Usec. Oscar P. Palabyab
	Presentation of Issues and Concerns/Action Plan
	Presentation of Resolutions
12:10 p.m.	**Lunch**
1:30	**CLUSTER PRESENTATIONS (Cont'd)**
	Hubs and Spokes – presented by the Planning and Development Cluster
	Usec. Evelyn B. Pantig
	Presentation of Issues and Concerns / Action Plan
	Presentation of Resolutions
2:30	**Marketing Plan** – presented by the Marketing and Promotions Cluster
	Usec. Rolando G. Reyes
	Presentation of Issues and Concerns / Action Plan
	Presentation of Resolutions
3:30	**Coffee Break**
3:50	**Open Forum**
4:40	**Closing Ceremonies**
	Summary of Proceedings
	Closing Remarks
	Usec. Rolando G. Reyes



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No more window shopping for me, dear diary

BY CHARLES BUBAN

DEAR diary, today is special because for the first time, I think I will love going to the mall.

Like, I used to despise going there because I would just feel bad later on. I used to say that if you're not buying anything, why punish yourself drooling at window displays? Not that I don't like them but I won't be able to buy them even if I really, really like to get them.

But that was before I learned about the Appliance Installment Expo in Festival SuperMall at Filinvest, Alabang. In fact, I am going there right now. after I write down the last word in this entry.

It all started yesterday when I went to meet my friend at the Carousel Court in the mall's second level. I was waiting when I noticed this huge preparation going on at the center of the exhibit area. My curiosity got into me so I started asking people around.

Suddenly, my interest in shopping fired up. I learned that this was going to be a huge appliance fair

WINDOW/B12

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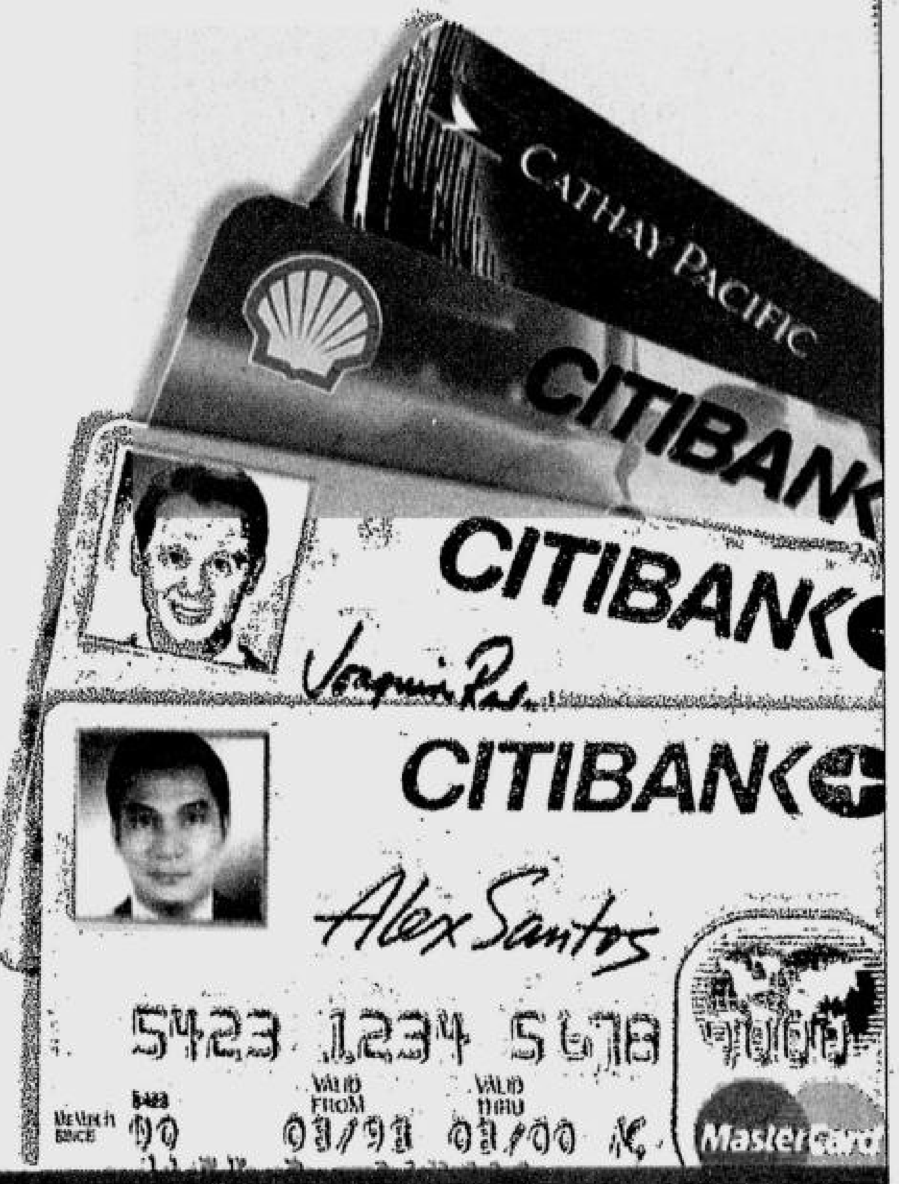


CITIBANK

No more window shopping for me, dear diary . . .

(From Page B10)

THIS is something you shouldn't miss: The Carousel Court of the Festival Super Mall at Filinvest Alabang (Inset) will be the center of activity in today's opening of the Appliance Installment Expo.

> *I used to hate going to malls since I usually don't carry enough cash to buy what I really really like. Then I learned about Citibank's PayLite installment plan which would allow me to pay for the items on installment at the most affordable plan. By the way, the interest rates at the expo (and all Sogo branches) are already reduced*

jointly held by Sogo and Citibank and would run until Sept. 12.

From what I learned, I guess you, too, will change your mind about going to the mall. Imagine all the leading brands converging in one venue. By the way, I was also told that if what I will see at the Expo isn't enough, I can always visit the Sogo Home and Office Center located at the same level just to see more products at the same reduced prices.

Funny, but just now, I can remember all the appliance brands participating in the expo—Aiwa, Carrier, ChangHong, Condura, Elba, Electroworld, JVC, Kelvinator, Konka, LG, National Panasonic, Philips, Pioneer, Sharp, Sony, Uni-Air, Union, Whirlpool, and home and kitchen experts Dowell, Krups and Moulinex. I even know the fine features of most models probably even better than my nerdy boyfriend.

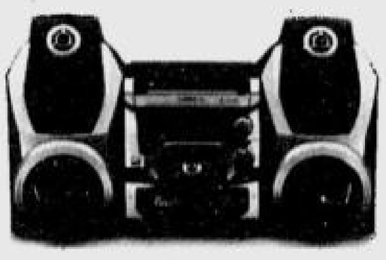
I used to hate going to malls since I usually don't carry enough cash to buy what I really, really like. Then I learned about Citibank's PayLite installment plan which would allow me to pay for the items on installment at the most affordable plan. By the way, the interest rates at the expo (and all Sogo branches) are already reduced.

There's this ZERO-interest-rate plan offered at the expo, too. They told me that certain items will be offered on installment at no interest which means the cash price on the price tag will be the basis of the monthly installment payment. Isn't that wonderful? That even made my mom so ecstatic when I told her about it that she even let my dad go there today.

Since it's Sogo Home and Office Center, many of the appliances and other items I will buy will be covered by either the Warranty Plus Program or Replacement Advantage Program. Warranty Plus allows me to get an extended warranty coverage of up to five years. That's additional four years to the original one-year warranty provided by the manufacturer.

The service center will take care of everything until it's fixed. The Warranty Plus is even transferable to the next owner if in case I decide to sell the appliance within the

Window/ B13



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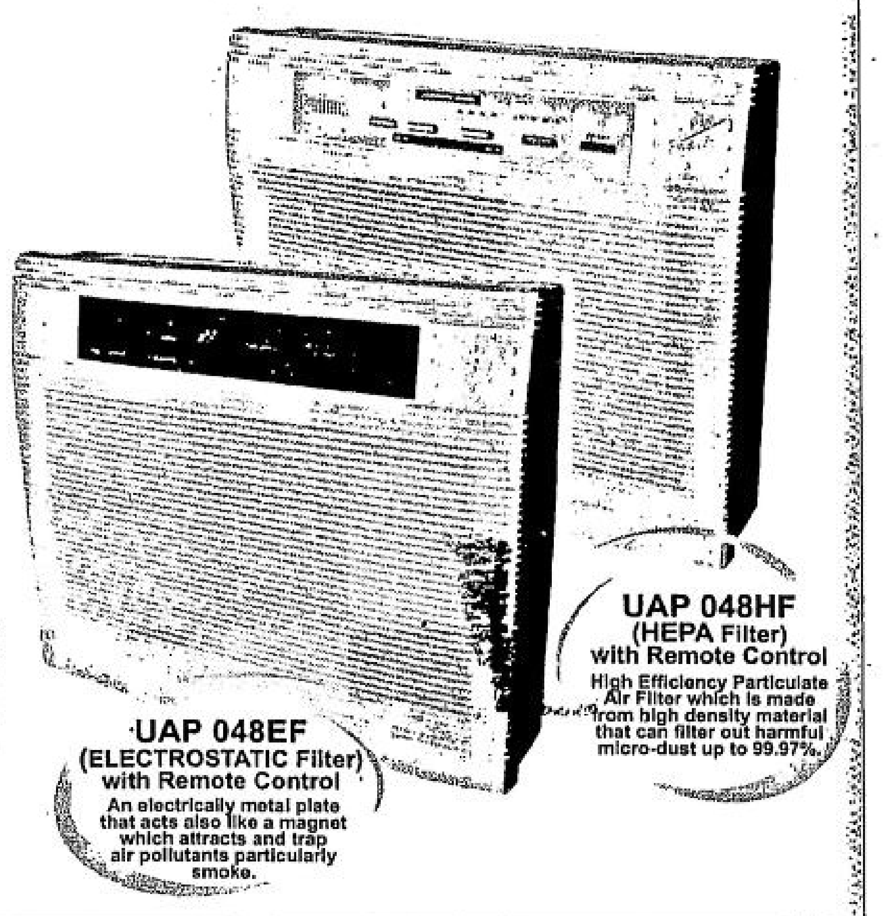
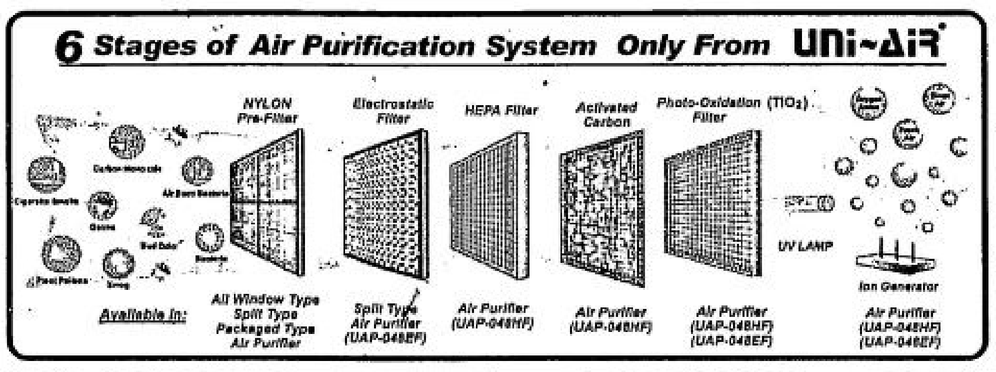
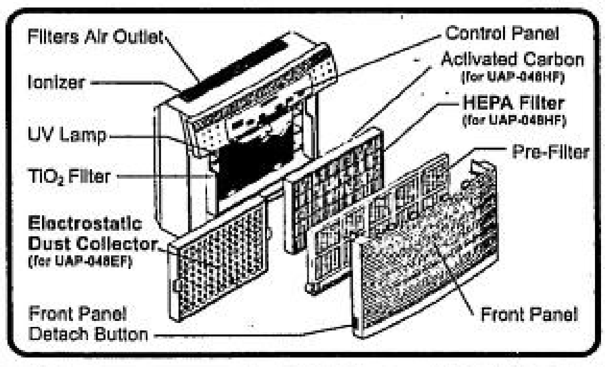
No more window shopping . . . (From Page B12)

extended warranty period.

The Replacement Advantage Program, on the other hand, works like Warranty Plus, but it's for the smaller items like the turbo broiler I will buy today. If ever I will need to have it fixed after the expiration of its original one-year warranty, Sogo will replace it with a brand-new one—no need to bring it to the service center anymore.

And this is the one secret only you, my dear diary, will know for now: My best friend is getting married and I told them to try Sogo's Wedding Gift Registry so their guests won't duplicate any gift they would buy for them. She agreed, so now I will also take her to the expo to inquire about it.

I guess this is it for the day, my dear diary. My boyfriend is calling me now and who knows, in the next Appliance Installment Expo of Sogo and Citibank PayLite, I might be the one availing of that Wedding Gift Registry feature. But let's keep it a secret for now. Bye!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" A Mother is she who can take the place of all others, but whose place no one else can take."

God Has Called Home
Our Beloved Mommy

Nora Navarro Santos

who peacefully joined our Creator on August 28, 2001 at the age of 70.

And reunited her with our beloved Daddy
Winifredo Reyes Santos
after receiving the Last Sacrament.

Her remains lie in state at Mount Carmel Hall, Mount Carmel Chapel, New Manila, Quezon City.
Please join us in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

With much gratitude from her bereaved family...

CHILDREN, **Suzanne** and **Michael Carrigan**, **Charo** and **Cesar Concio Jr**, **Malou Santos**, **Joey** and **Helen Santos**, **Mae Santos**, **Millette** and **Edgar Mortiz**
GRANDCHILDREN, **Frasco**, **Badji**, **Calin** and **Camille Mortiz**, **Bryan** and **Stephanie Santos**, **Francis** and **Martin Concio**, **Miguel** and **Mark Manas**
SISTERS, **Lily N. Santos** and **Arleta N. Ruffy**
BROTHER, **Mario Navarro**
IN-LAWS, **Pepe Santos**, **Alice Navarro** and **Rose Navarro.**

Holy Mass will be held on Saturday, 01 September 2001, 9:00am at the Mount Carmel Chapel.
Cremation will follow at the Loyola Memorial Crematorium, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Donation to the ABS-CBN Foundation would be most appreciated in lieu of flowers.

BAYANI VIRATA FAYLONA

Lawyer

Former Chairman, Energy Regulatory Board
Former Vice-President, Mobil Oil Phils.

Peacefully joined our Creator on August 28, 2001
at the age 77.

His remains lie in state at the Mount Carmel Church,
Juana Rodriguez, New Manila, Quezon City

His bereaved wife **YOLANDA**,
daughter **MARILYN FAYLONA-CRUZ**,
son-in-law **DR. VICTOR T. CRUZ**, grandson **ANDREW**,
brothers **KAULAYAO**, **JOSE**, **BENJAMIN**, **RIZAL**,
sisters **LUNINGNING**, **AMOR**, **NORMA**(+) and their spouses,
aunt **LIGAYA V. MEDINA**, nephews, nieces and other relatives
request your prayers for their beloved **BAYANI**.

Cremation will be on Sunday, September 2, 2001 at 6:00 PM
at the Funeraria Paz, Cremation after the 4:00 PM Mass
at Mt. Carmel Church.

Onward! Upward!
To Jesus, Through Mary!

Concepcion Hipolito-Maranan

08 December 1929 — 30 August 2000

She joined our Lord and the Blessed Mother a year ago.
We, her loving family, invite you to be with us
in marking this First Anniversary.

Holy Masses will be offered today at the following Churches:

St. Francis Church, Little Chapel .... 4:00 p.m.
(Special Mass)

1.	**St. Francis Church** *Shaw Blvd., Pasig*	7:00 a.m.
2.	**Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish** *Sta. Ana, Manila*	5:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.
3.	**Nuestra Señora de Guia Church** *Ermita, Manila*	8:00 a.m.
4.	**Nuestra Señora de los Remedios** *Malate, Manila*	6:00 a.m.
5.	**Sanctuario de San Antonio Church** *McKinley Road, Makati*	12:15 nn
6.	**St. John Bosco Church** *Arnaiz St., Makati*	12:15 nn 6:00 p.m.
7.	**Holy Family Parish Church** *Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig*	6:00 p.m.
8.	**Christ the King Church** *Greenmeadows, Quezon City*	6:00 p.m.
9.	**Immaculate Conception Church** *Kapasigan, Pasig*	5:00 p.m.
10.	**Makati Medical Center Chapel** *Makati*	12:00 nn 4:00 p.m.
11.	**Sacred Heart of Jesus Church** *Kamagong, Makati*	7:00 a.m.
12.	**St. Andrew Church** *Reposo St., Makati*	6:30 p.m.
13.	**National Shrine of the Sacred Heart** *Kamagong, Makati*	7:00 a.m.

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die." **John 11:25-26**

"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death.
He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us,
along with you, to God."
2 Corinthians 4:14

Loving Wife and Mother

Merle Cuenca Gamalinda

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 28, 2001.

Her loving husband **Oscar**; children **Virna Liza, Lorelei, Beverly, Oscar Jr.** (†), **Giovanni, Michael**; mother **Alejandra**; brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Christ the King Church in Green Meadows.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 1, 2001 at the Heritage Memorial Park, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass in Christ the King Church.

ATTY. BENJAMIN MADRID BUSTOS, SR.

of Masantol, Pampanga

Peacefully joined our Lord on August 27, 2001 at the age of 89.

His loving wife **Carmelita Noblejas**; children **Michael** and **Amy**, **Peter Jessie**, **Miriam**, **Michelle** and **Niño**; grandchildren **Alex** and **Faye**; his brothers, sisters and in-laws **Lourdes**, **Alice** and **Dr. Amando Garcia**, **Nelly**, **Pepito** and **Cora Unson**, **Rev. Msgr. Antonio**, **Dra. Monette** and **Engr. Adrian Briones**, **Dr. Danny** and **Dra. Hedy Silverio**; relatives and friends request the pious to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at House of Many Mansions, Mc Arthur Highway, Angeles City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 01, 2001 at the Holy Mary Memorial Park, Angeles City after the 9:15 a.m. Mass at the Holy Rosary Parish, Angeles City

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I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

SISTER LEONOR INES, WCW

Member of the Workers of Christ the Worker Religious Congregation

Passed away on August 28, 2001

We, her relatives and friends, Sisters of the Workers of Christ the Worker Religious Congregation, and the leaders and members of the Federation of Free Farmers request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Funeral and interment services will be on Tuesday, September 4, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. at the WCW Convent in Brgy. Linmansangan, Binalonan, Pangasinan, where her remains now lie in state.

"I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

ATTY. EDMUNDO M. RUADO

(Former Vice-Governor, Board Member, Provincial Fiscal, Judge and servant of the People of Romblon)

Peacefully joined his Creator on August 26, 2001
at the age of 73 in Romblon, Romblon.

His late wife **Celestial Hubana** (†); children **Edcel & Imee, Maryann & Paul, Boyet & Myrlu, Edward & Niberty, Menchie & Romy**, and **Bong**; sisters, brothers, relatives, grandchildren and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the family residence in Romblon, Romblon.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 4, 2001.

So Deeply Missed
So Lovingly Remembered

on the *66th birthday* of

AUGUSTO "BLONY" O. CAMPOS

who joined his Creator on 02 November 1998

His family invites relatives, friends, associates and those whose lives he touched to remember him in prayers.

Masses will be offered today at the following Churches:

Colegio de Sta. Rosa (*Estrella Street, Makati*)	6:00 a.m.
Don Bosco Parish Church (*Pasay Road, Makati*)	6:30 a.m.
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish (*Magallanes, Makati*)	7:00 a.m.
Sto. Niño de Paz Community (*Greenbelt Chapel, Makati*)	7:15 a.m.
Parokya ng Immaculada Concepcion (*Antipolo*)	8:00 a.m.
St. Thomas More Chapel (*Rockwell Drive, Makati*)	12:00 p.m.
Sanctuario de San Antonio (*Forbes Park, Makati*)	12:15 p.m.
Carmel of Our Lady Mary Mediatrix of All Grace (*Lipa City, Batangas*)	4:00 p.m.
St. Jude Thaddeus Parish (*Trece Martires City, Cavite*)	4:30 p.m.
San Isidro Labrador Parish (*Biñan, Laguna*)	5:00 p.m.
Parish of Sta. Maria dela Strada (*La Vista, Quezon City*)	6:00 p.m.
Sanctuario de San Jose (*Greenhills, San Juan*)	6:15 p.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish (*Bel-Air, Makati*)	6:30 p.m.
Sto. Rosario Parish (*San Pedro, Laguna*)	7:30 p.m.

"I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."
Isaiah 49:6

The Missionary Society of Saint Columban

mourns the tragic death of

FR. RUFUS HALLEY

who died tragically on his way home to Malabang
from the neighboring parish of Balabagan
on August 28, 2001 at around 4:00 PM
***Fr. Rufus** was 57.*

He was ordained in 1969 and arrived in the Philippines on October 1, 1969. He was the Assistant Parish Priest in Silang, Cavite, Morong, Rizal and Parish Priest in Jala-jala, Rizal. He volunteered to minister in the Prelature of Marawi, Lanao del Sur in 1980 where he faithfully served until the time of his tragic death.

Fr. Rufus now lies at rest in Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Malabang, Lanao del Sur.

Mass for the repose of his soul will be celebrated on Wednesday, September 5th in Our Lady of Remedies Parish, Malate, Manila at 6:00 PM.

Fr. Rufus brought life wherever he went. May he now enjoy it in its fullness.

No further details or information about the burial are available at this time.

SOLEDAD "CHOLENG" NABING AVENTAJADO

November 9, 1924 - August 28, 2001

Peacefully joined our Creator on August 28, 2001
at the age of 76.

Her loving husband **Genaro**; children **Peter** and **Maria Lourdes "Malu"**, **Robert** and **Teresita "Tinette"**, **Genaro Jr. "Jun"** and **Camille**, **Joven** and **Gloria "Bebot"**, **Mary Jane** and **Albert**; grandchildren **Priscilla Jean "Lala"**, **Peter Marcel "Mars"** and **Louise Bernadette "Det Det"**, **Josenino "Nino"**, **Jose Marco "Mac"**, and **Jose Xandro**, **Catherine Michelle**, **Juana Bernadine**, **John David** and **Stephanie**, **Mikkola "Miko"** and **Jackie "Jack"**, **James** and **Michelle Bernadette**; and great grandchildren **Gianina** and **Jeremy Daniel**, request relatives and friends and the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila.

Interment will be on August 31, 2001, Friday after the 1:00 PM Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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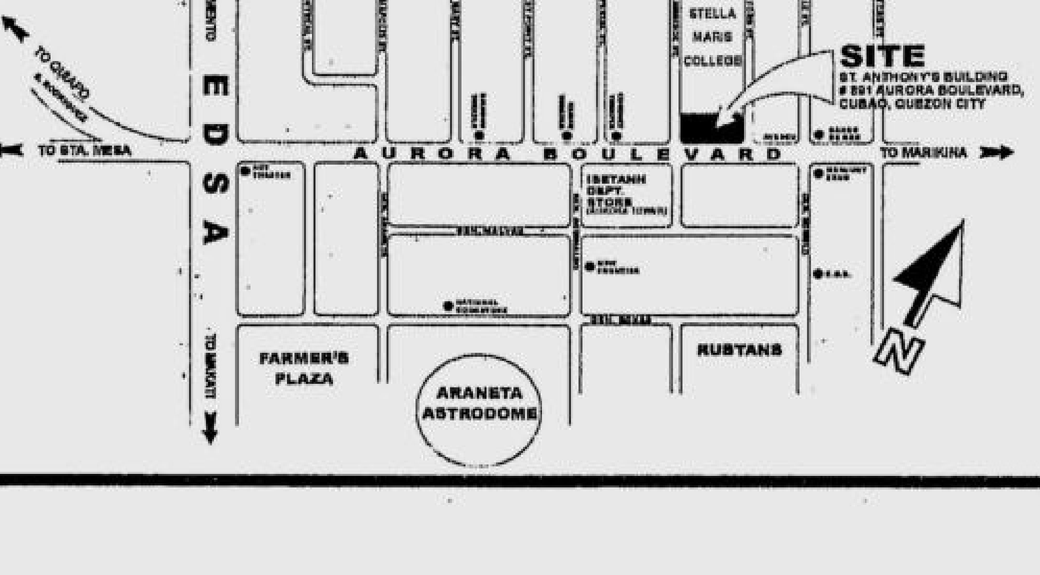

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Vacant Position Division of Pasig City & San Juan QS: BEED, SG10, Eligible w/License Item No. OSEC-DECSB-TCHI-44417-1998 Sgd: Abella C. Macarandan School Division Superintendent

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
SALES AGENTS
M/F, excellent commision w/ or w/o exp. bring bio-data, NBI, 2x2 picture
Tel. 534-5926 / 27

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the Solid Bank Cert. #A008234 under the name of Sonia Susana S. Crisol was lost. If no contest received new cert. will be issued.
(PDI- Aug 16, 23 & 30, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **Paz Conchita L. Enciso** has been the subject of an extrajudicial settlement on August 14, 2001, by and among her heirs per Doc No. 20, Page 5, Book II, Series of 2001 of Atty. Ana Rhia V. Largo.
(PDI-Aug. 16, 23 & 30, 2001)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen

---

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INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Interested parties are invited to pre-qualify and bid for the:

SUPPLY OF LABOR AND MATERIALS AND SUPERVISION
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE (1) UNIT
HOT WATER TREATMENT PLANT AT BUKIDNON MILL
DISTRICT (BUSCO), BUTUNG, QUEZON, BUKIDNON

Only pre-qualified bidders as of October 8, 2001 shall be allowed to participate in the Public Bidding to be held on November 15, 2001 at BUSCO, Bukidnon at 9:00 AM.

Pre-qualification Forms shall be issued starting September 4, 2001 at SRA, Quezon City and SRA BUSCO and the deadline for the submission of said requirements shall be on September 18, 2001.

The list of qualified bidders shall be released on October 8, 2001. Thereafter, bid forms shall be issued for a non-refundable cost of Php700.00 each.

A pre-bid conference shall be held on October 23 at BUSCO, Bukidnon at 9:00 AM.

All bids must be accompanied by bid bonds in the amount of 5% of the total cost of the tender or offer—either in cash, Manager's Check or GSIS bond.

For further inquiries, please call:

THE SECRETARIAT - Metro Manila
SRA Bidding and Awards Committee
Tel. No. 929-6837

and

SRA Bukidnon (BUSCO)
c/o NOLE M. SERMONIA

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality or defect therein, and to accept any or all offers that may be considered most advantageous to the SRA.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI – Aug. 29, 30 & 31, 2001)

ERRATUM

On an ad by a "prestigious publishing company" looking for EDITORS, DESK EDITORS, and REPORTERS published in this paper last Sunday, **August 26, 2001**, the e-mail address written was quadratic@edsamail.com.ph.

Instead, please send your responses to **quadratic01@edsamail.com.ph**.

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Time & direction

Q. Can an ordinary watch be used as a compass?

A. An ordinary watch, if it is keeping correct time, makes a fairly accurate compass when the sun is shining. All that is necessary is to let the timepiece lie flat with the face up and the hour hand pointing as nearly as possible toward the sun. A line running from the center of the dial to a point half way between the hour hand and the point indicating 12:00 o'clock will point due south in the Northern Hemisphere (where we live) and due north in the Southern Hemisphere. The process may be reversed by turning one's back to the sun and pointing the hour hand in the direction one's shadow takes. In that case, a line running from the center of the watch through a point half way between the hour hand and 12:00 o'clock will point due north in the Northern Hemisphere and due south in the Southern Hemisphere.

For the Record. Two designers can claim to have invented the modern wristwatch: Louie Cartier of France, who in 1904 made one for the famous Brazilian aviator Alberto Santos-Dumont; and, in the same year, Hans Wildorf of Switzerland, the founder of Rolex. Earlier versions date back to around 1800, but they were essentially items of jewelry rather than a watchmaker's product.

Past Forward. This day in 1850: Marcelo H. del Pilar, leading propagandist and writer in Spanish and Tagalog, was born in Cupang, Bulacan, Bulacan.

WORD WATCH

Walrus mustache : a thick mustache like that of a walrus, the type Marcelo H. del Pilar sported.

PDI – Aug. 30, 2001

People, Events & Products

ARIES B. ESPINOSA, Assistant Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Pfizer to provide medicines to 60 underdeveloped countries

PFIZER recently announced that the company will provide Fluconazole (Diflucan), an anti-fungal medicine with no charge to HIV/AIDS patients who cannot afford treatment in the 60 underdeveloped countries where HIV/AIDS is most prevalent.

The expanded program was developed in cooperation with the United Nations, World Health Organization and a Pfizer initiative program currently underway in South Africa where Pfizer is partnering with the South African Ministry of Health. Today's expansion was announced at the UN by Pfizer chair and CEO Hank McKinnell and representatives from six nations that are expected to participate in the program.

"Together with our partners at the UN and the WHO, we are moving quickly to expand our program and reach as many HIV/AIDS patients as possible in the 60 countries targeted by the UN," said McKinnell. "The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a tragedy of unprecedented magnitude, and we will continue to work with the UN, the WHO and other international organizations on how public and private partnerships like this program can be most effective," he added.

Estimates show that roughly 10 percent of 120 million people in the 60 underdeveloped countries today are infected by HIV/AIDS. While the Pfizer medicine is not a treatment for HIV/AIDS, it has proven highly effective in treating two opportunistic infections--cryptoccocal meningitis and esophageal candidiasis that afflict large numbers of AIDS sufferers.

Cryptococcal meningitis is a life-threatening infection of the brain caused by the yeast Cryptococcus neoformans; it occurs in approximately 1 in 10 AIDS patients in the late stages of the disease. Esophageal candidiasis is a debilitating fungal infection of the esophagus caused by Candida Albicans. It is reported in 20 to 40 percent of all patients with HIV/AIDS.

Pfizer has pledged to support the initiative for as long as it is needed. The company will work closely with UN and WHO to ensure that its medicines will reach eligible patients through medically responsible treatment programs. Pfizer will also explore existing distribution networks in the targeted countries and ship the medicines through those networks with the approval of the appropriate government and medical authorities.

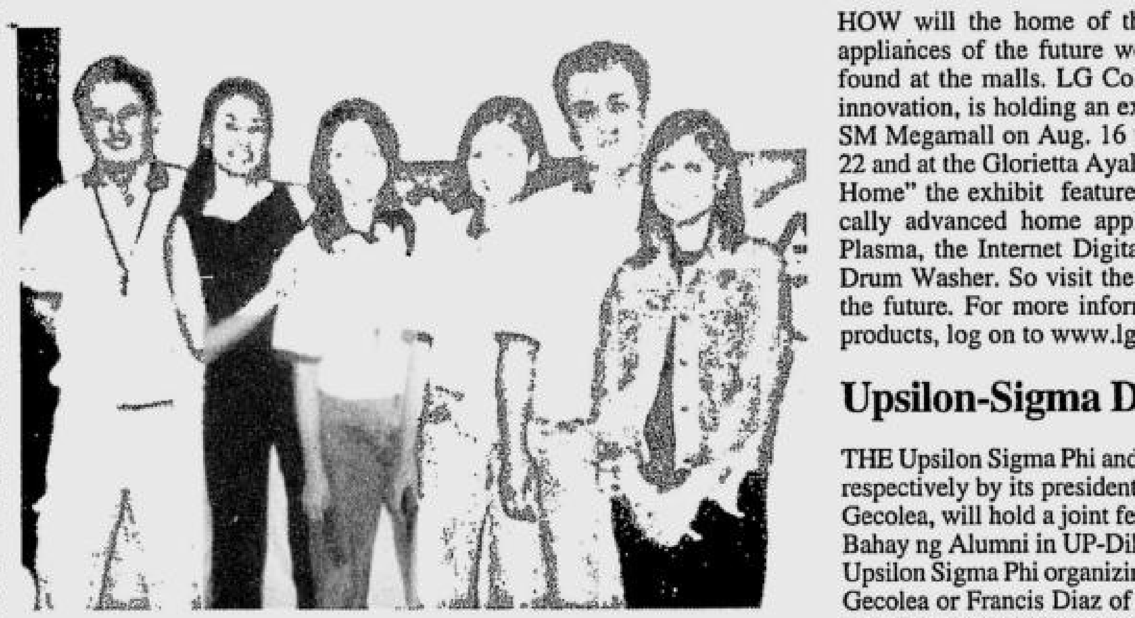
Pfizer is a global, research-based pharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and manufactures innovative medicines for humans and animals. It is a union between Pfizer Inc. and Warner-Lambert, two companies that have defined excellence in healthcare. This year, Pfizer will invest $5 billion for research and development.

HOUSE OF SARA LEE AWARDS NEW VIP BENEFICIARY

House of Sara Lee, one of the country's leading direct selling companies, recently awarded another beneficiary of the company's Vehicle Incentive Program (VIP). Aurora Marina de Leon, an independent business manager (IBM) from the Las Piñas branch, received a brand-new Kia Carnival. The VIP is specifically designed for top-seller IBMs as a special benefit for their outstanding performance. Shown are (from left) Ricky Sy, House of Sara Lee Philippines general manager; Simon Hemus, Sara Lee Direct Selling Worldwide president; Aurora Marina de Leon with husband Gene; Ian Cormack, VP-HR development Sara Lee direct selling division; Jonna Pizzaro, team leader; Lina Jacob, Las Piñas branch sales manager; Mila Dioquino, Las Piñas branch operations manager; and Perry Mogar, Sara Lee direct selling Asia president.

PHILAMLIFE WORLD-CLASS AGENTS

Philamlife president and CEO Jose L. Cuisia hosted recently a dinner recognition program for the country's outstanding agents from the 2000 Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT)—an exclusive organization of the world's best sales professionals in life insurance. Shown are (from left) EVP and chief marketing officer Jesus Hofileña, MDRT qualifying and life members Rudy Mallari, Rosario Salientes, Corazon Ki Ang, and Jeanette Mendoza with EVP and chief agency officer Josefino Sto. Domingo. Mallari, Salientes, Ang, Mendoza and 38 other MDRT honorees are proud member agents of Philamlife—the Philippines' largest and most diversified life and general insurance company affiliated with the leading US-based international insurance and financial services organization the American International Group Inc. (AIG).



APC CHANNEL PARTNER PROGRAM BAGUIO

American Power Conversion (APC), world leader in power protection and management solutions, recently launched its Channel Partner Program (CPP) for northern Luzon at the Baguio Country Club, Baguio City. The CPP is a support program designed to provide useful sales tools, marketing programs, training workshops, and product updates for APC resellers. The successful launch was organized by HOLL Advertising and Promotions Inc., the advertising and promotions agency of APC. Shown are (from left) APC country manager Jason Lim, HOLL president Michelle Lee, APC marketing supervisor Arlynn Garcia, APC channels sales manager Odette Malong, APC district channel manager Don Heraña and HOLL media manager Rachelle Sumugoy.

an And Green
rds Ceremon

CLEANEST AND GREENEST ESTABLISHMENTS

Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) chair Ma. Livia Honey Girl S. de Leon awards trophies to the winners of the cleanest and greenest barangays, service institutions and commercial establishments during the Panagyaman Festival on the 162nd founding anniversary of Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya recently. Looking on are Gov. Rodolfo Agbayani and Juliana Dizon, provincial director of DTI.

AFFI joins food franchising

THE ASSOCIATION of Filipino Food Franchisers Inc. (AFFI) will again be joining for the third time at Food Franchising 2001, the 5th International Food Franchising and Business Systems Exposition on Sept, 5 to 8 at the World Trade Center, Metro Manila.

AFFI is composed of small and medium homegrown franchisers and retailers. They will be participating in the Franchising Pavilion at the Food Franchising 2001.

During the Food Franchising Show, AFFI will be holding its 4th Franchise Seminar and Show at the Seminar Room of World Trade Center, Metro Manila.

Topics for the seminar will be on "How to Invest in a Franchise", which is specially planned for the investor looking into getting a franchised business and "How to Franchise Your Business" tailored for business operators who are considering franchising for business expansion.

Besides the annual seminar series, AFFI also sponsors Franchising Clinic, Educational Fora and franchise roadshows (especially in provinces).

Entrepreneurs who are interested in franchising may call Trade Information Marketing and Exhibitions (TIME) at 834-0085 to 86, fax at 831-3828 or e-mail time@skyinet.net. You may also visit the website at www.tradeinfo.com.ph. AFFI can also be reached at 532-8386 or e-mail franchise@edsamail.com.ph.

BITS & Clips

'Cyber Home': A glimpse of the future

HOW will the home of the future be? How will the appliances of the future work? The answers to these questions can be found at the malls. LG Collins Electronics, the leading name in digital innovation, is holding an exhibit of its new, cutting-edge products at the SM Megamall on Aug. 16 to 29, at Filinvest Festival Mall on Sept. 9 to 22 and at the Glorietta Ayala Center on Sept. 24 to 30. Dubbed as "Cyber Home" the exhibit features some of the smartest and most technologically advanced home appliances in the world, including the Flatron Plasma, the Internet Digital DIOS Refrigerator and the Internet Turbo Drum Washer. So visit the "Cyber Home" today and have a glimpse of the future. For more information about LG Collins Electronics and its products, log on to www.lge.com.

Upsilon-Sigma Delta Phi Alumni Fellowship

THE Upsilon Sigma Phi and Sigma Delta Phi Alumni Associations, headed respectively by its presidents, lawyer Gari Tiongco and Luzbella Jamosin-Gecolea, will hold a joint fellowship on Friday, Aug. 31 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bahay ng Alumni in UP-Diliman. For details, alumni members can contact Upsilon Sigma Phi organizing committee: lawyer Gari Tiongco, Dr. Romeo Gecolea or Francis Diaz of Upsilon Secretariat (634-2427/638-7642); and or Sigma Delta Phi organizing committee: Linda C. Gamboa (812-6702), Tanya Sta. Romana (842-5659) or Baby S. Olivar (931-1333).

Below-the-line advertising

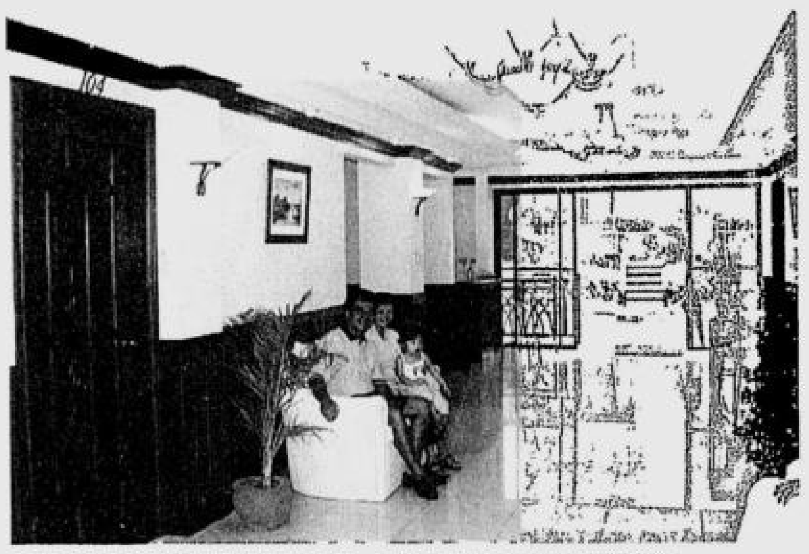
THE INSTITUTE of Communication of the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P) is holding a seminar on below-the-line advertising on Aug. 30 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the PLDT Lecture Hall of the UA&P. This seminar is intended for middle and senior managers handling the functions of general marketing, brand or product management, marketing communications, corporate communications, public relations, account management, creative, account planning, and business development. For details, call 634-2827 (telefax) and 634-0321 or e-mail icomm@cas.uap.edu.ph.

Toyem 2001 Gabi ng Parangal

IT'S all systems go with the Gabi ng Parangal for the winners of the Ten Outstanding Young Employees of Marikina 2001 (Toyem 2001) on Friday, Aug. 31. The board of judges chaired by MMA Media, the event organizer, met recently to shortlist and select the 22 finalists. The board includes Marikina City Mayor Marides C. Fernando, DECS superintendent Jerome Mendoza, Marikina Chamber of Commerce president Eduardo Francisco, and Nitvet-Tesda head Ricardo Mejia. There are 10 categories in the annual search for outstanding young employees in the workplace. Over 1,500 nomination forms were distributed among the city's registered business establishments.

Corporate Inn: perfect service

Welcome to The Corporate Inn Hotel, loaded with elegance and quality service. Our Manager's Café offers a wide selection of menus plus feel the rhythm of piano bar every evening. Three newly renovated function rooms are all well-equipped with multimedia systems able to cater 10-200 people and ideal for all events. There are 50 well-designed and well-equipped rooms to choose from, and a state-of-the-art business center for your business needs. For total satisfaction, the hotel has other lines of services. For more information, call 526-5001, 526-2776 or fax 526-2717.



MC MOUNTAIN HOME: A DREAM VACATION

Have you been dreaming of a vacation that's worth your every minute and peso? Just 68.9 kms. south of Manila, MC Mountain Home Tourist Inn in Tagaytay is an apartelle that gives you not just a place to stay in but a holiday to spend with your friend and your family. As what a pleasantly surprised family has discovered (above), MC Mountain Home has recently expanded this 2001. Along the highway it appears to be a two-story building but in fact there is a rolling garden good for weddings, reunions or company seminars. Within the compound are two buildings that house 14 rooms and seminar areas. Ask about it when you call directly the apartelle site at (046) 413-2232; (02) 850-5438; (0917) 794-7500 or Manila office at 638-6360 to 62 or 634-5340.

ZEST-O GLOWING ON PHILTRANCO BUSES

Images of the famous Zest-O Juice Drinks that glow in the dark now adorn 15 Philtranco buses. Filipinos are already familiar with the sight of buses being entirely cloaked in product advertisements. But this is the first time that drinks on advertisements on buses will be seen glowing in the dark, adding a different twist to a medium that is gaining popularity in the country. This is made possible by the 3M technology that makes use of the 3M ScotchPrint Electronic Graphic System. These Zest-O 'Glow in the Dark' buses will be traveling the popular Manila-Bicol routes and to the southern Philippines as far as Davao. During the height of summer, Zest-O Corp. would like to give travelers a refreshing experience, similar to the Zest-O experience on a hot day. Present during the Zest-O and Philtranco contract signing were (from left) Philtranco Service Enterprises Inc.'s Philip Neri, vice president for finance and Alejandro Yague, president; Zest-O Corp.'s Francisco Cada, marketing manager and Randy Libre, business development manager.

All Nations Women's Group
"ANWG Reaffirms the Dignity and Worth of Every Woman"
April

ANWG INDUCTS OFFICERS

The All Nations Women's Group annual induction ceremony and April Cultural Program was held recently at Dusit Hotel Nikko with the theme 'All Nations Women's Group Reaffirms the Dignity and Worth of Every Woman.' Inducting officer and keynote speaker was Corazon J. Soliman, Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development. Lolita Escobar Mirpuri, immediate past president of ANWG received awards of commendation for her outstanding leadership for the past three years. Shown are (seated, from left) Leonida Bayani Ortiz, vice president; Suria Arshad, honorary director; Eugenia Ma. Kagawa, president; Secretary Soliman; Mirpuri; and Undersecretary Belinda C. Manahan, DSWD. Standing (from left) are Ma. Julia G. Dancel, past president, ANWG; Vera Milakovic, former charge de' affairs, Embassy of Yugoslavia; Aurora Udarbe Gonzalez, treasurer; Rafaelita R. Goño, internal auditor; Udomporn J. Mortega, recording secretary; Villa Granada de Guia, corresponding secretary; Lili T. Adina, public relations officer; Arlene L. Jacobo, director; Marietha G. Holmgren, member and Lalie R. Tolentino, director.

BUSINESS

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TOYOTA

Pundits see 1.5% growth

THE PHILIPPINES should post a 1.5-percent growth in gross domestic product this year, according to US economists.

"They were not exactly bearish, but neither were they bullish," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said in a seminar conducted by the US Federal Reserve.

Reacting to the forecast, HSBC Corp. treasurer John McGowan said it was "remarkably low" and did not reflect existing conditions.

"I believe the economy will grow by 2.5 to 2.8 percent this year. For the economy to grow by only 1.5 percent would mean an absolute collapse in the last two quarters of the year. There is nothing in the horizon that suggests this," he said.

Buenaventura also took the economists' forecast in stride. He expressed confidence that economic growth this year would hit 3.3 to 3.8 percent, although he was leaning closer to the low end of this range.

"I think the economy will improve in the coming quarters because of strong agriculture and services. I hope the trade will also improve but this will be more on the fourth quarter to the first quarter next year," he said.

Buenaventura ruled out a technical recession.

HSBC's McGowan said a possible spoiler to a modest growth this year would be a strong peso.

He expected the local currency to strengthen to 49 to a dollar by year's end.

A strong peso would dampen export earnings, he said. *Clarissa S. Batino*

Gov't seeks new tax laws

THE MACAPAGAL administration will push for a new law that will help bring down the cost of restructuring for banks and allow asset management companies to proliferate, according to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

In a Senate hearing yesterday, Camacho broached the idea of amending the country's tax laws to exempt banks undergoing a restructuring from paying a 6-percent capital gains tax.

The National Internal Revenue Code requires those selling real estate to pay a 6-percent capital gains tax.

"We would like to propose a law to help AMCs (asset management companies) bring down the cost of restructuring. We would like Congress to take a look at the 6-percent capital gains tax and see how we can help banks dispose of their bad assets," Camacho said.

He said the 6-percent capital gains tax was shouldered by the seller every time a title for a piece of property was transferred.

This means banks will have to pay the capital gains tax before it can sell bad assets to AMCs. An AMC will also pay the 6-percent tax before it can sell the asset to another company.

Banks have started exploring ways to put up a joint AMC that will dispose of the industry's non-performing loans and bad assets.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura is encouraging banks to set up their own AMCs to bring down their level of non-performing loans.

FOR FEEDBACK, TEXT US AT (0919) 661-2337 OR E-MAIL US AT LIFESTYLE@INQUIRER.COM.PH

LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Tastes

MAMA MIA. Maryrose Ramoso Peña and her Italian bread line

And the breadwinner is . . .

BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

> Maryrose Ramoso-Peña is the woman behind such signature baked goods as Outback's bushman bread, National Sports Grill's sourdough and rye loaves, Country Waffles' English muffins and Chili's wheat buns

HER passion in her teen years was photography but it had to take a backseat to genetics. Coming from a family with a penchant for good food and growing up with a grandmother who ran the famous Kup n' Saucer coffeeshop in Cubao in the '60s and '70s, Maryrose Ramoso-Peña was predisposed to follow the path to the oven. So a baker she became, and a darn good baker at that.

A few years after graduation from the Ateneo de Manila University, Maryrose flew to San Francisco and enrolled at the California Culinary Academy where she specialized in bread and pasta courses. Upon her return to Manila in 1993, Maryrose set up Gourmet Bread House Inc. (tel. 671-0944) and started to market her customized breads to specialty restaurants. It was during this period that the Philippine food and restaurant industry marked the renaissance of gourmet food and the recognition of ethnicity and fusion cuisine. However, the food industry back then was constricted by supplies and materials avail-

AND THE BREADWINNER/ p.C2

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Solid Mills Bldg., dela Rosa St.	Robinsons Equitable Tower, ADB Ave.	Cedar Executive Bldg. Timog Avenue	Sunshine Square Plaza	Citibank-Frabelle Bldg. Alabang-Zapote Rd.	Federal Tower Bldg. Dasmariñas St.	Q Plaza Congressional Avenue	Dan's Marketing Bldg., McArthur Highway, San Fernando	Keppel Centre, Cebu City

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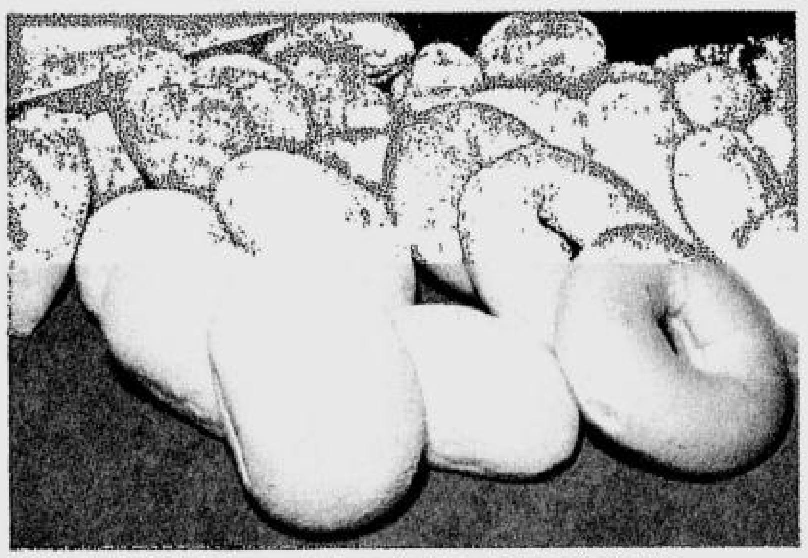
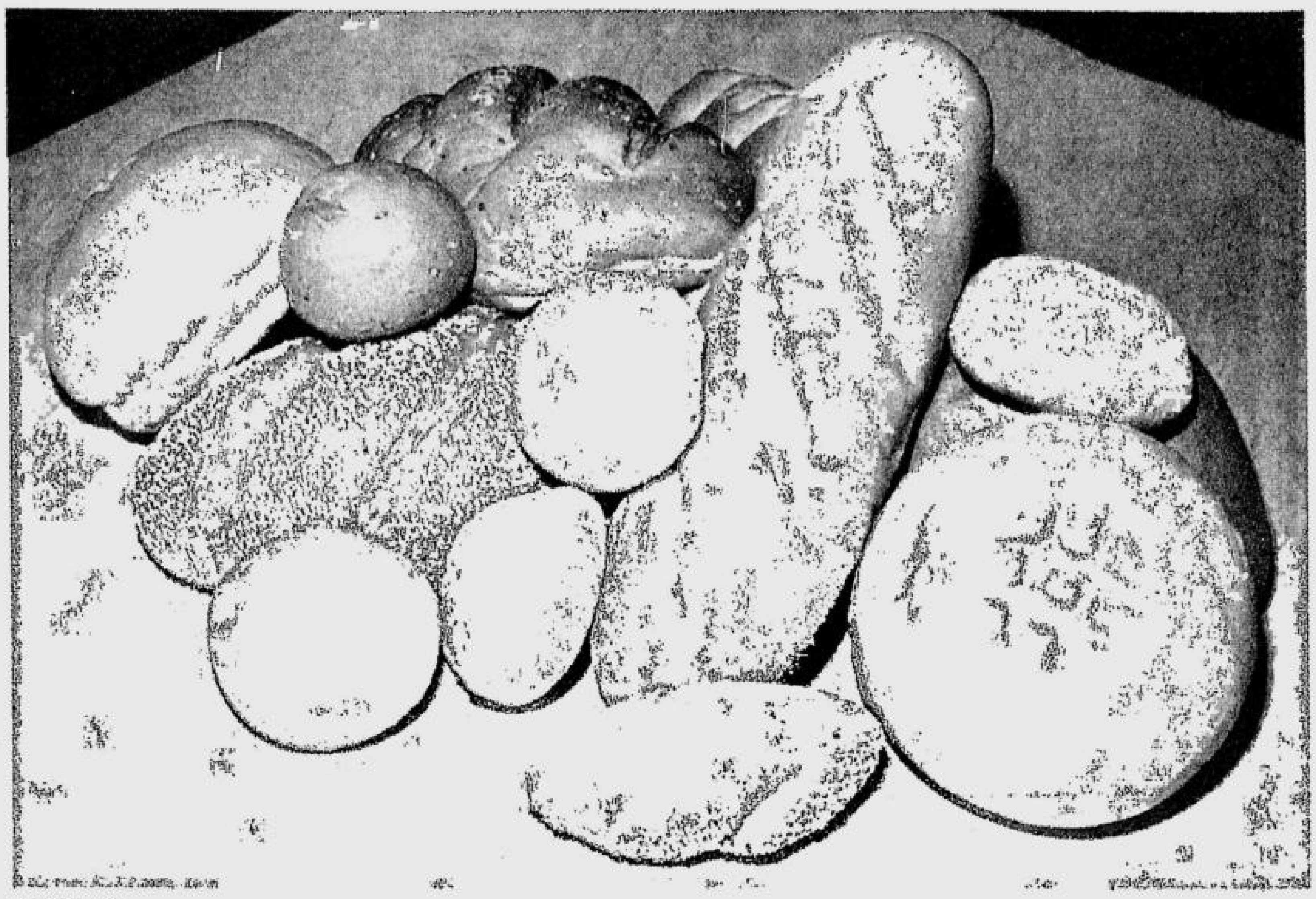
BAKER'S BABIES. Maryrose and triplets Luci, Kokoy and Jackie


ROLL 'EM OUT. Gourmet Bread's line of breakfast rolls


BUN-TIFUL! Assorted buns—hamburger, honey, kaiser and wheat burger

LOAFIN' AROUND. White bread, rye bread with caraway seeds, wheat and dark wheat loaves

And the breadwinner is . . .

(From page C1)

able in the market. "Only a handful of suppliers catered to the specific and distinctive needs of these new theme restaurants," Maryrose begins. Bread types and sizes were then limited to commercially produced items. "I saw that there was a need for traditional, customized breads for all these new restaurants," she adds.

What sets Gourmet Bread House apart from other baking companies is Maryrose's two-fold approach. "I do a product list where I offer the client a listing of the breads that I have and, alternately, I sit down and discuss with the client what kind of bread they would like to have. What type of texture, color and taste they desire, and I develop it for them," she says. A simple hamburger bun, Maryrose explains, has many variations. "Some like them crusty, others want them sweet, while others like them soft or bland. Normally, it takes me anything from a week to a month to develop a recipe for the client depending on how discriminating they are," she adds. Right now, she is hard at work developing a Greek pita bread that is on its, hold your breath, third month of development. "The owners of the restaurant are Greek and they just want to make sure that the bread is really reminiscent of home."

Gourmet Bread House's line of breads is as varied as the restaurants it caters to. There are loaves, buns and breakfast breads; country breads like rye, wheat, multigrain and sourdough; Italian breads such as focaccia and ciabatta (plain or with herbs) and grissini (plain, sesame, garlic and onion). The company continues to diversify its product line and its client base has grown tremendously. Currently, it services Almon Marina, Azzuro Bistro, California Pizza Kitchen, Hello Kitty Café, Po Na Na, the Rockwell Club, Salumeria Café and Tender Bob's, among others.

Maryrose beams with motherly pride as she talks about the unique bread products she has developed that have become trademarks of some of her restaurant clients—Outback's bushman bread, National Sports Grill's sourdough and rye loaves, Country Waffles' English muffins and Chili's wheat buns. She adds that her company uses traditional recipes and procedures of breadmaking. "We use slowly fermented dough and sponges that enhance the flavor and aroma of breads. Our bakers test dough texture and form various shapes and sizes of breads and we use high-quality and basic flours in all bread products," she emphasizes. "The flavor of breads comes from the natural tastes of the different flours and we refrain from using pre-mixed flour in our products." Maryrose says that the technique allows natural spices and sweeteners to enhance the character and uniqueness of their bread products.

To further ensure the quality of their products, Maryrose says she delivers freshly baked breads to her clients. The bread, she stresses, is baked on the eve of the delivery date and packed just in time for distribution.

For this soft-spoken mother of four, including a set of triplets, baking bread is both an art and a joy. "We don't just produce breads, we create them," she ends with a smile.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph

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POWER PLANT MALL
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Excess vs moderation

(From page C8)

airline food: usually chicken or fish, so that one doesn't offend Jews, Hindus, or those unused to gamey meats; if they serve beef, it's always done medium-well. Moderation is the flatline on the oscilloscope of intensity of living. Moderation is existence circumscribed by the rule-book of decent behavior, taste and rationality. It is the deadness of following the dotted lines and not letting the crayon stray outside the squares.

But let us return to caviar for a moment. After the sturgeon is slit open and the eggs are extracted, they must be salted within a few minutes. There is no scientific way of measuring how much salt to put in; an expert must gauge the quality and quantity of the eggs and then add a precise amount: too little, and the eggs will spoil; too much, and they become worthless. The correct moderation of salt is essential to the creation of caviar.

Moderation and excess are strange bedfellows: not quite flip sides of a coin, but somehow contingent to, or dependent on, the other. There was one night when my insomnia reached its height, and I found myself taking two Mogadons, a Rohypnol, four Valium, two Dormicum and a Donormyl. It briefly and vaguely occurred to me that I might die, which would be a problem because I haven't given proper instructions on my funeral (I wish to be buried to the strains of "Entrance of the Gods into Valhalla").

Poetry

Excess is about putting so much garlic into pasta that I was burping it for days; but I enjoyed it nevertheless. Excess is about my discovery of a particular brand of soy milk in Chiang Mai, and drinking six bottles in one night; my gastronomic tract vehemently aired its protest, literally. Excess is about driving my friend's Porsche and hitting 200 kph on the Skyway and discovering with alarm how short it actually is. There are some excesses that can kill you.

The line I remember most from "Shakespeare in Love" is when she murmurs to herself: "I shall have poetry in my life." Poetry is language condensed, made lyrical, exuberant, brought to the peak of its powers. It cannot be used for inter-office memoranda, instructions to the maid and manuals for heavy machinery. I mock those who live their lives measured out in coffee-spoons (great columnists steal, as well); at the same time, I wonder what numbness results from a life lurching from party to party with reckless abandon, drinking onself into a stupor and then picking up with coke lines in a toilet stall. Or I have friends who are obsessively in love all the time: they worship the ground she walks on; when they fight he smashes the car's windshield while she slits her wrists; then when it ends they are walking wrecks or sob in their room for days, then they meet another woman and the cycle begins all over again.

And so I shall have poetry in my life, as well. I will work only when it is propelled by passion. I want to fall in love so deeply that I become a gibbering fool, crazy and walking on air, deaf to reason. I do believe in beauty, freedom and love (although truth I'm a little dicey about). Finally, I shall have gold-leafed walls and velvet curtains, damask and silk, in defiance of taste and moderation. Excess is like an exclamation point in a page of ellipses and periods. Excess is the great operatic aria that you wake up for after sleeping through the dull recitativo bits. But the precise moderation of salt is what creates the excessive decadence of caviar, and one cannot experience the beauty of Rimbaud and Eluard without first learning "Comment vous appellez-vous?" and the like.

Excess in itself isn't exciting; it's the motion of falling in love, leaping into the unknown, shooting for the moon that gives the thrill. We don't feel speed, what we do feel, though, is acceleration and deceleration. "Excess," said a friend of mine, "is at least as far as one should go." But it's the trip there and back that makes the journey.

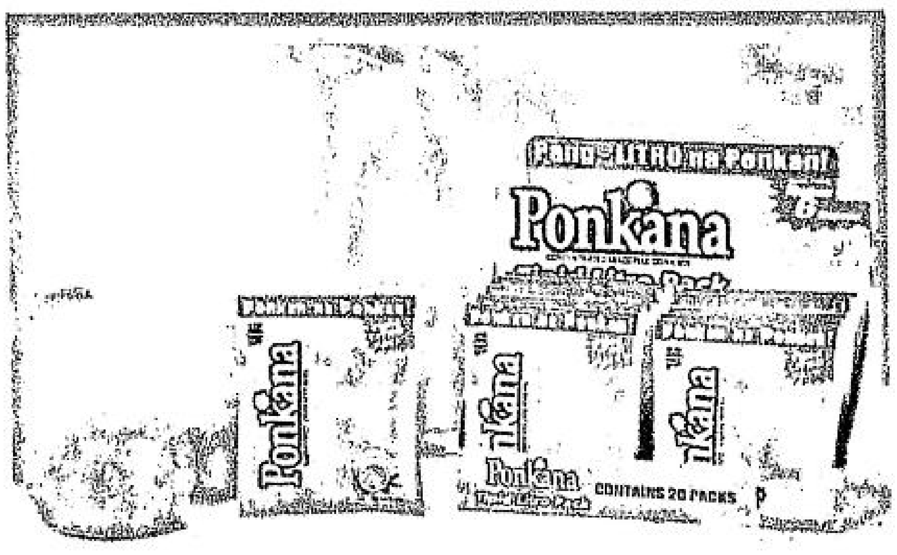
E-mail the author at Clinton@i-manila.com.ph

KNORR has perfected four flavors of Cup-a-Soup: Cream of Mushroom, Cream of Corn, Cream of Chicken and Cream of Seafood. Packed with meat and vegetables, each soup is made more delicious with special spices. With its low-calorie content, it fits not only food lovers but also weight watchers. Available in an easy tear, single serve sachet.

GOOBER Peanut Butter and Jelly Stripes is a combination of creamy peanut butter and jelly. A delectable treat for parties and snacks, the peanut butter spread is great with sandwiches, pancakes, waffles and crackers. It comes in four flavors: Grape, Strawberry, Chocolate and Honey Stripes.

SKI yogurt, available either fresh or frozen, offers rich flavors like Wild Strawberry, Berry Heaven and Mango. For the health conscious, there's SKI D'Lite in Peach N' Mango, Honey Buzz, Wild Strawberry and Berry Basket. Watch out for premium items and taste tests at Makati-Alabang Supermarket, Cherry-Congressional Avenue, Robinsons Galleria and Ermita, and Rustan's Rockwell and Edsa.

New in the kitchen



PONKANA is now available in the new Tipid Litro Pack. It makes up to six glasses of the same sweet, refreshing ponkan drink Filipinos love. It only costs P7 per 45-g pack.

KNORR offers a new snack for those with a busy lifestyle—Cup-a-Snack. Simply pour into a cup, add boiling water, stir, wait for five minutes, stir again and enjoy. Packed with real rice ingredients, its flavors include Arroz Caldo, Beef Goto, Champorado, Guinataang Mais and Chicken Sopas. Available in single serve sachets and mini cups.

NESTLÉ Taho Almond Lychee is a soy-based dessert that combines lychee syrup and almond-flavored creamy flan. The taste is slightly wacky, subtly fruity and pleasantly light. Also available is the classic Nestlé Taho which can be purchased in leading supermarkets and convenience stores.

EARTH Flavors promotes a healthy appetite through its Crunchy Garlic and Onion Shallots in a bottle. Simply sprinkle garlic/onion shallots straight from the bottle to add flavor to food. It also goes well with soups, pastas and other grilled dishes. Available in regular, spicy and salt-free variants.

It's about time we let the new generation do the cooking.

Come and spend the best year of your life with us.
Enrollment for October Batch is ongoing.

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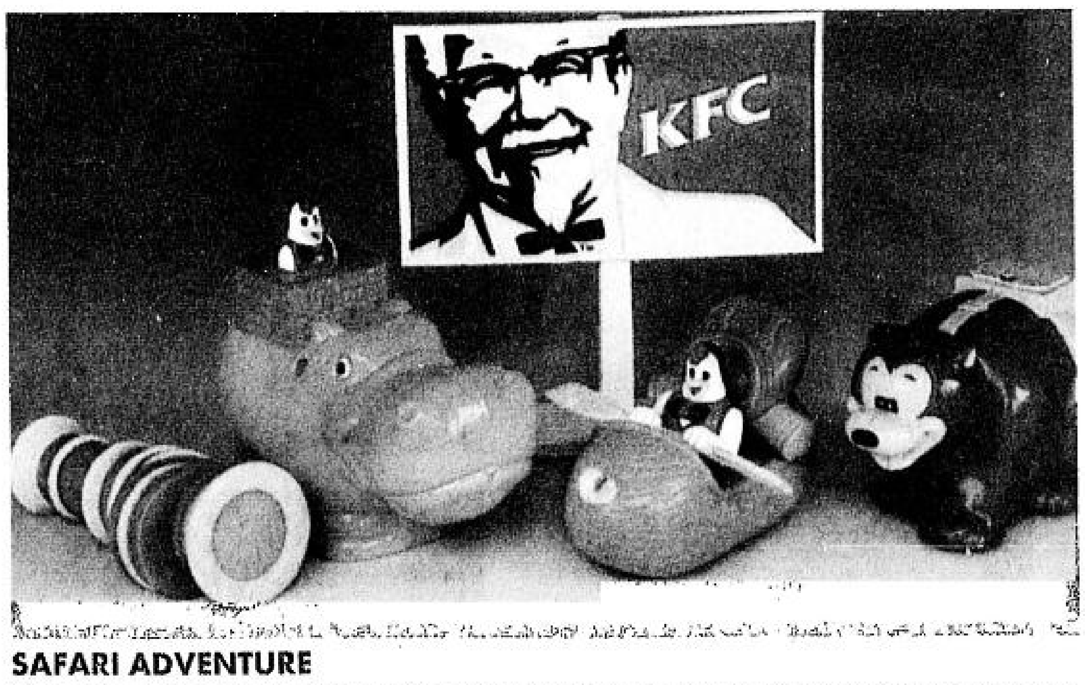
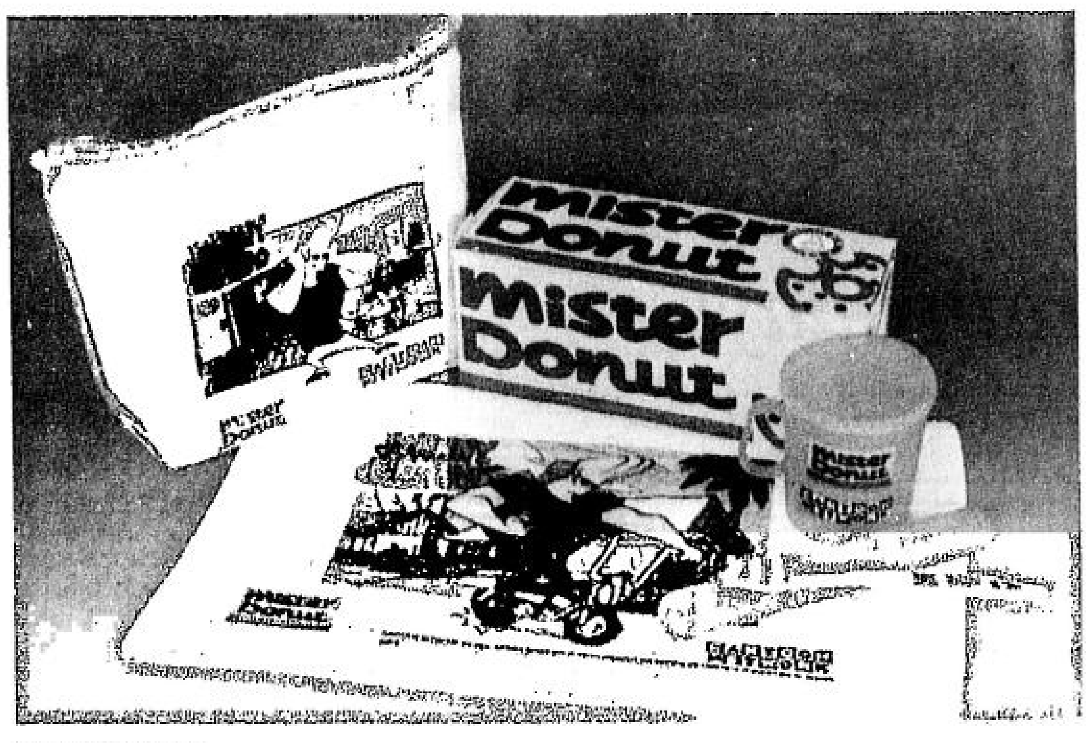
Shake 'em fries promo extended

DUE to the demand for the cheese or barbecue-flavored Shake 'em Fries, Jollibee has extended the promo to Sept. 8, or until supplies last. The fun fries come in "shakeable" sachet packages that give kids, teens and adults a "create-your-own-flavored fries" experience, for only P22. Or just add P4 to your Jollibee Langhap Sarap Burger Value Meal to have your regular fries upgraded to the Jollibee Shake 'em Fries, for a more flavorsome meal.



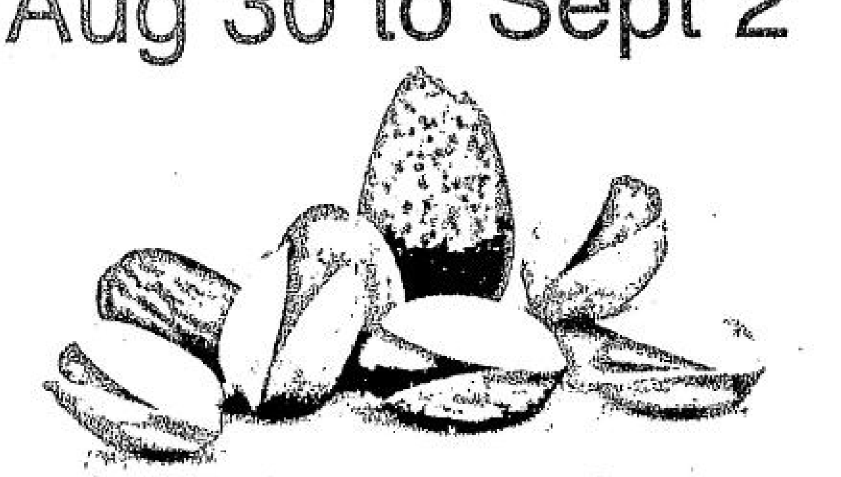
SAFARI ADVENTURE

KFC's Chuckie Meal items dubbed "Chuckie in Safari" are colorful Safari toys: Buddy Hippo Squirter, Big Paw Crawler, Kayak Swinger and Fantasy Viewer that come with every order of KFC Chuckie meals—BBQ Chicken Burger, Spaghetti or Chicken. Promo is available nationwide until Aug. 31.



BRAVO, KID!

Get Johnny Bravo collectibles when you buy a Mister Donut Funbox for just P99. Mister Donut Funboxes come with 13 pieces of Junior Donut and get either a Johnny Bravo Toothbrush with case, towel, mug with cover or tote bag. Promo runs until Aug. 31.



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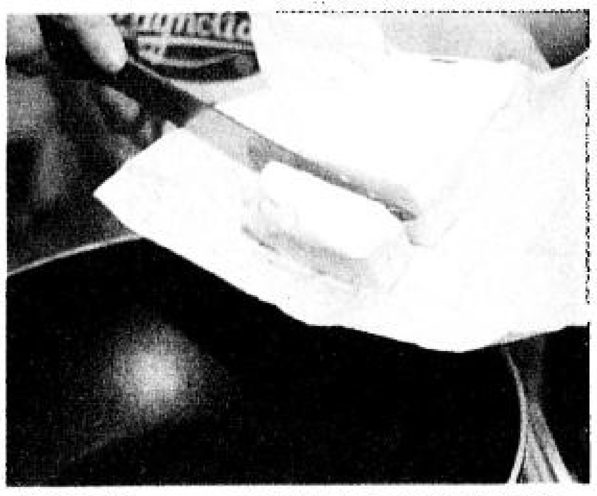
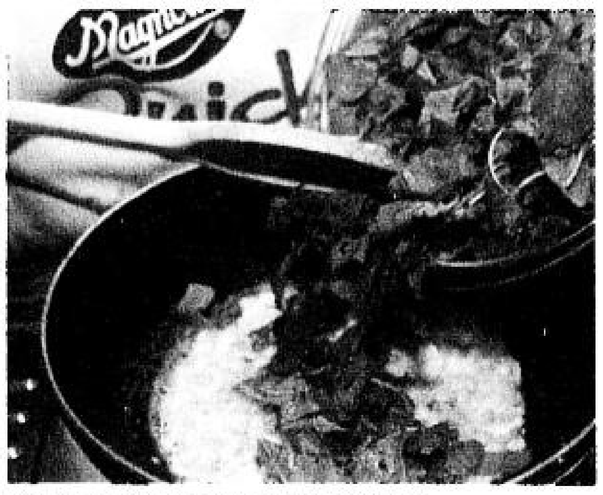
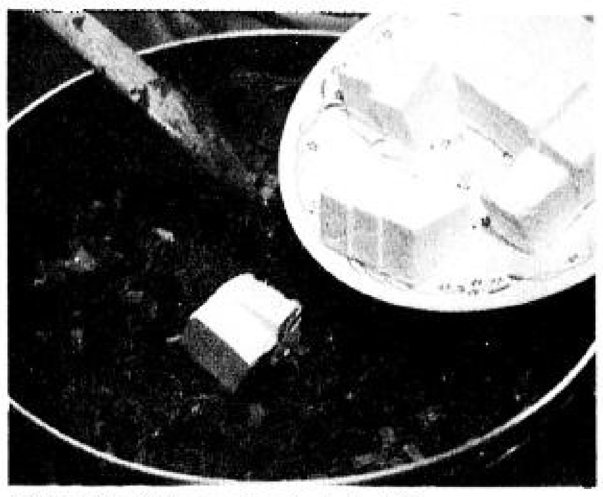


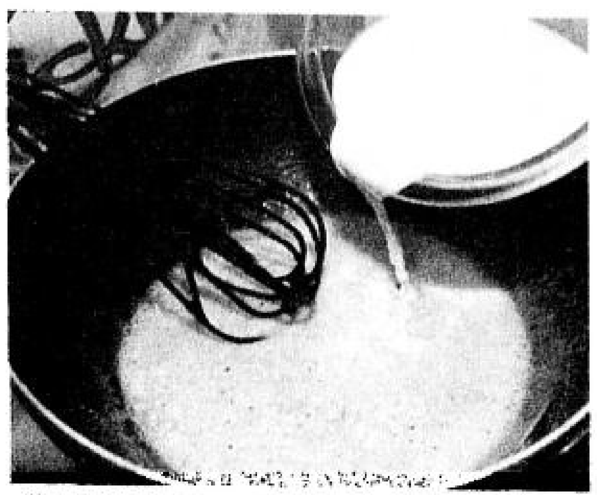
1 **COOK** lasagna according to package directions. Set aside. To make spinach layer, melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Sauté garlic and onions.



2 **ADD** spinach and cook until wilted.



3 **TURN** off the heat and slowly stir in cream cheese. Mix well. Set aside.



4 **TO MAKE** the white sauce, melt butter in a saucepan. Add flour and mix to form a paste. Add milk.

This lasagna makes eating your spinach a joy

BY VANGIE BAGA-REYES
PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

STEP BY STEP

FOR TIMES when you want to serve an entirely meatless meal, try this delicious vegetarian version of lasagna using fresh spinach. Helene Pontejos, San Miguel Food Group culinary services manager, and Maricel Manalo, SMFG product applications technologist, have developed this recipe to give this Italian favorite a different twist.

"Lasagna has always been a hit, especially among teenagers," says Helene. "So, this is a healthy way of encouraging the young ones who don't like to eat veggies."

There are two important ingredients in this recipe: fresh spinach and cream cheese. If you cannot find fresh spinach, you can use spinach in can available in supermarkets. You can also substitute spinach with eggplant.

But, this spinach lasagna will not be as rich, creamy and yummy without the cream cheese. The cream cheese is stirred in last when the spinach is already cooked. "The addition of cream cheese in this recipe makes a big difference in taste and flavor," Helene says.

In making and mixing the white sauce, Helene notes, it's best to use a wire whisk until the sauce thickens. You can also use the white sauce in preparing Chicken à la King.

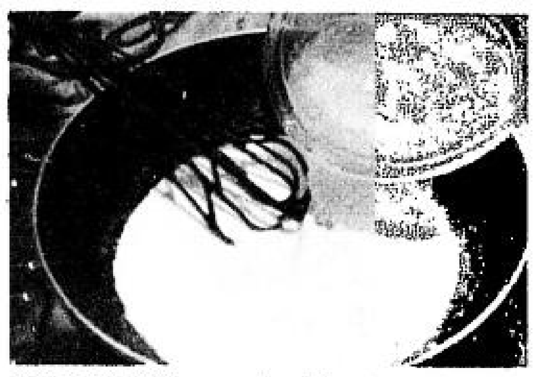
Preparation takes about one hour. Makes 12 servings. Total cost: Less than P250.

Ingredients

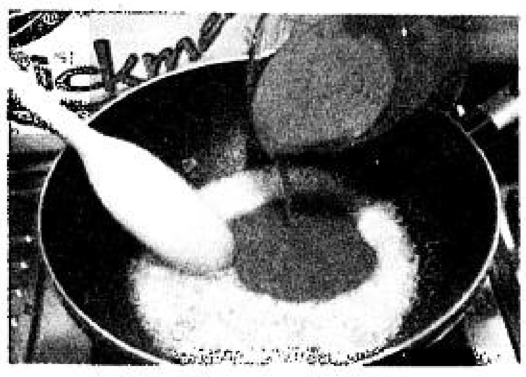
Spinach layer
¼ c Anchor butter
2 tbsp minced garlic
½ c chopped white onions
5 c or 1kg fresh spinach, loosely packed
1 bar Magnolia Cream Cheese, softened
White sauce
¼ c Anchor butter
¼ c all-purpose flour
1 pc chicken bouillon cube, dissolved in 1½ c water
1 c full cream milk
Tomato sauce
¼ c Anchor butter
2 tbsp minced garlic
1 ½ c tomato sauce
2 tbsp chopped fresh basil
1 tsp salt
1 tsp pepper

200 g uncooked lasagna
½ c grated Magnolia Quickmelt cheese

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

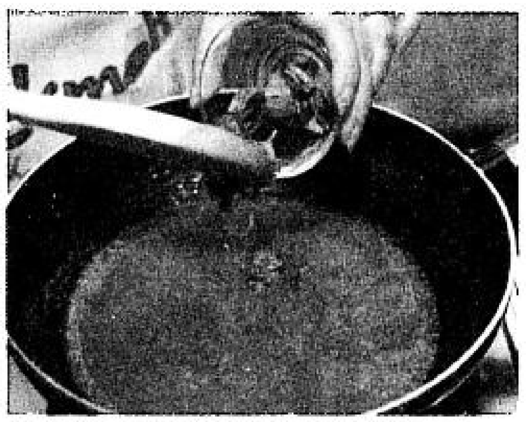


5 **POUR** chicken stock while stirring. Cook over moderate heat while continuously stirring until slightly thickened. Set aside.

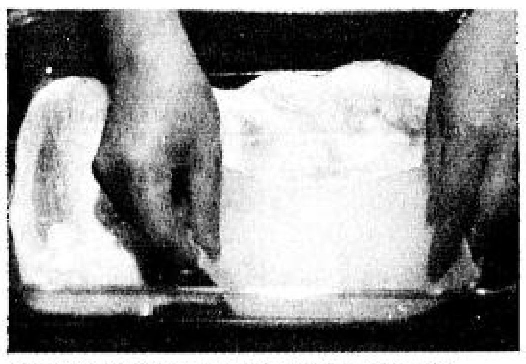


6 **TO MAKE** the tomato sauce, melt butter in a saucepan. Sauté garlic. Add tomato sauce. Let boil.

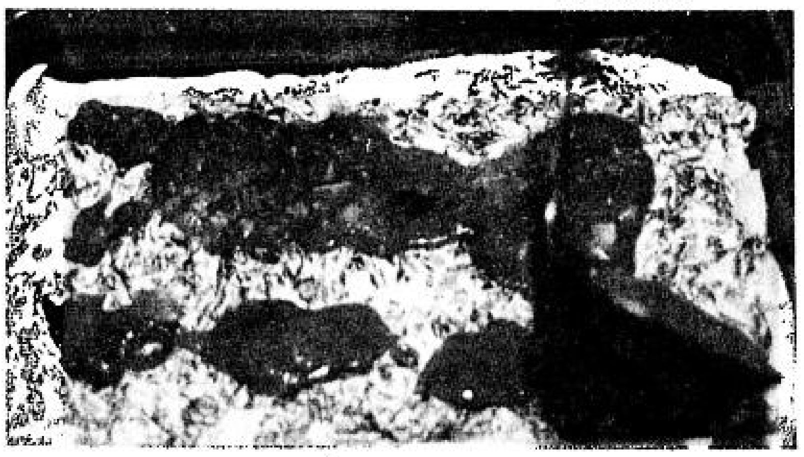
7 **SEASON** with salt and pepper.



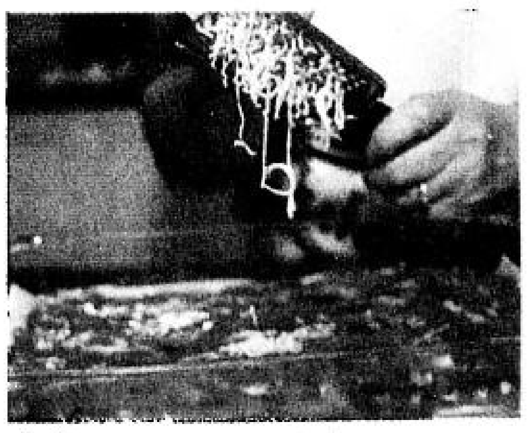
8 **ADD** chopped basil. Remove from heat and set aside.



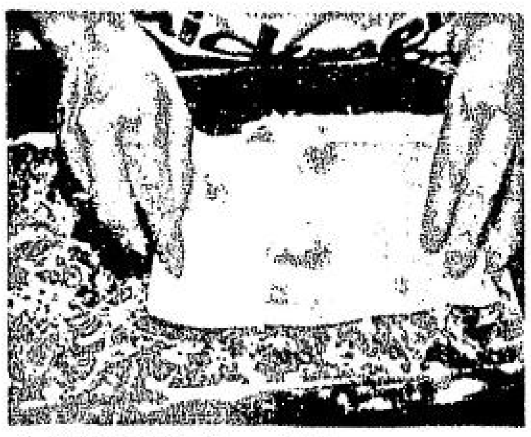
9 **TO ASSEMBLE,** lightly smear the bottom of a 9" x 13" baking dish with white sauce. Arrange a layer of lasagna noodles in the baking dish, covering it completely.



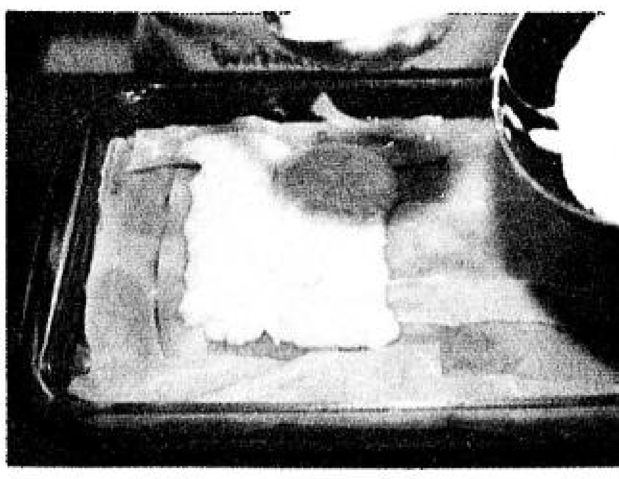
10 **TOP** with cooked spinach and pour ½ of tomato sauce on top.



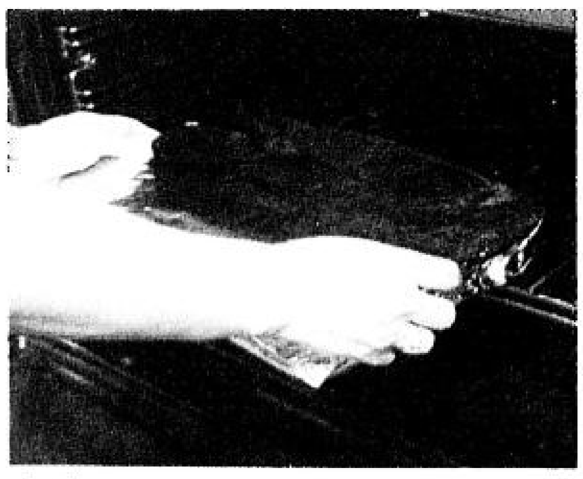
11 **SPRINKLE** grated cheese.



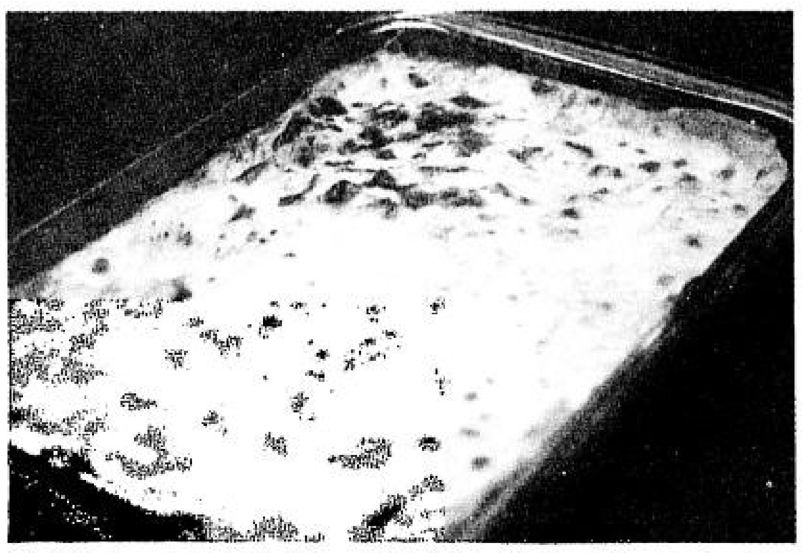
12 **REPEAT** Steps 9-11.



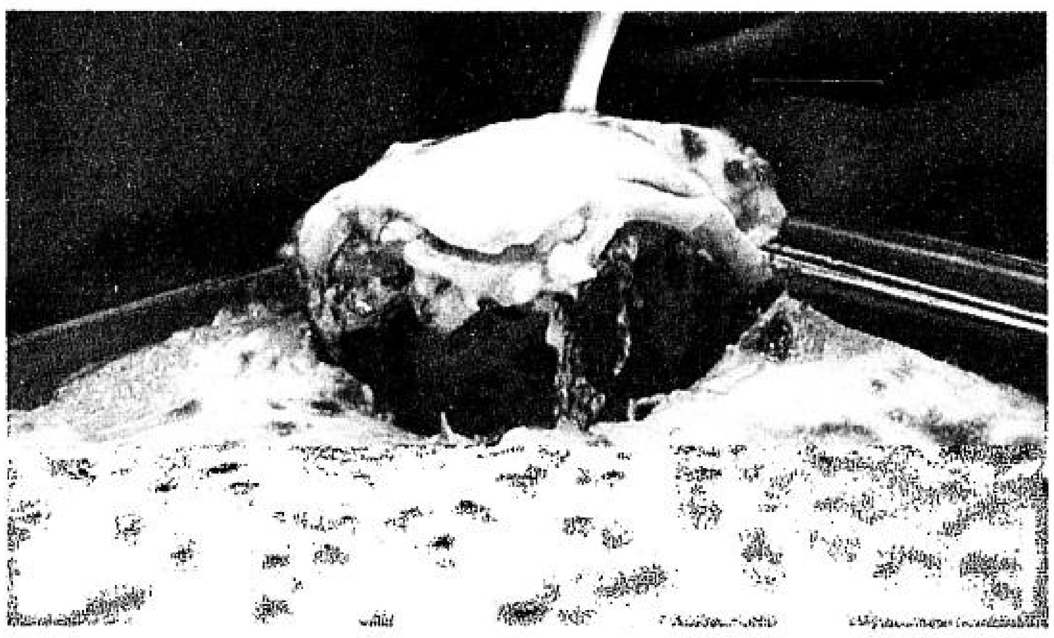
13 **TOP** with the last layer of lasagna and pour the rest of the white sauce. Sprinkle with grated cheese.



14 **BAKE** lasagna for 30 minutes in a preheated 200°F oven. Keep covered with aluminum foil while baking.



15 **CREAMY** and rich spinach lasagna



Soup is best on rainy days

DINING OUT

GOLD RANCH offers warm soups perfect for the rainy season. The list includes cappuccino of forest mushrooms, French onion soup overbaked with gruyere cheese and cream of tomato soup garnished with Italian parsley and topped with whipped cream. Seafood fans will adore corn soup with crab meat. Gold Ranch is located along Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City.

THE PENINSULA MANILA is extending its Flavors of the White Elephant Kingdom: Thai Food Festival at Spices Restaurant until Sept. 1. Lucky diners who drop their calling cards get a chance to win round-trip tickets for two to Bangkok courtesy of Thai Airways International. Call 887-2888.

DUSIT HOTEL's Benjarong Royal Thai restaurant offers curry dishes, soup, salad, vegetables and sauces served simultaneously with plain steamed rice. Salads include Yam Pla Duk Foo (crispy catfish with green mango salad), or Khao Niew Som Tam (papaya salad with sticky rice), or Larb Gai (spicy ground chicken salad). For the main course, there are the Lonpoo (coconut milk and crab meat sauce), or Lon Gapi Kua (coconut milk and fried shrimp paste sauce), Panaeng Gai (chicken in thick red curry), or Gaeng Kiew Wan Neua (beef in green curry), and steamed dishes like Gai Hor Bai Toey (fried chicken wrapped in *pandan* leaf), or Pla Prio Wan (sweet and sour fish), or Neam Tord (diced fine sour pork). Call 867-3333, local 3351 to 3352.

T.G.I.FRIDAY'S offers "full meal deals," a selection of full-plate entrées and a soda of your choice. Choose from the restaurant's dishes like Uncle Sam 's Fried Chicken (two pieces of golden brown crisp-fried chicken, served with steamed rice and country mushroom gravy) and Shrimp Friday's (delectable shrimps on a bed of Friday's fries or rice pilaf and comes with cocktail or tartar sauce dip). Try the Chicken and Pasta, Barbecued Ribs and Chicken Combo, Fish and Chips, and Mushrooms, Steaks and Mushrooms. You can also try the Deluxe or Veggie Pizza in the Pizza for One.

TRADERS HOTEL goes Italian this September. The hotel presents Italian cuisine dubbed "La Cucina Italiana." Each day, different lunch and dinner buffet will be served. There's also a concoction of pastas, soups and pizzas to choose from. Call 523-7011, local 2402.

ALBA RESTAURANTE ESPAÑOL holds Tapas Party, which is perfect for celebrating birthdays, class reunions, company parties and other occasions. Packages start at P300+ per head for a minimum of 30 persons. This consists of nine cold and hot *tapas*, Spanish dessert, Alba rolls, French bread and a complimentary bottle of wine. Alba Restaurante Español is located at 38 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati. Call 896-6950 to 51 and 890-4372.

ALLEGRO CAFFE ITALIANO features the Authentic Italian Extravaganza, which offers pastas like Linguini Pesto, Linguini Pescatore, Spaghetti with Italian Sausage, Lasagna and Spaghetti with Meatballs. These are cooked on the spot, right after you order them. Each pasta comes with free regular iced tea and garlic bread. Allegro Caffe Italiano is located at Street Level, Glorietta 3, in front of Landmark.

WE'RE HERE. Duty Free general manager Michael Kho, Anthony's Wines president Tita Trillo, Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon and Anthony's Wines chair Anthony Trillo

SHARING NOTES. Rendo Stuart and Maan Pangan share wine notes on Caliterra Merlot with Ellah Calleja and lawyer Adelina Molina.

A stop for spirits

AT THE WINE Stop, which opened at the 2/F of the Duty Free Fiesta Mall recently, there are wines to suit everybody's budget and taste buds.

Being duty and tax-free, wines are guaranteed to be at least 20-percent lower than the prevailing domestic prices. Backed by Anthony's Wines' world-renowned brands such as Robert Mondavi, Penfolds, Baron Philippe de Rothschild, Pierre Dourthe and Bollinger, to name a few, the Wine Stop is definitely a shop worth stopping for.

Fr. John Cordero led everyone in prayers and sought blessings for the store during the formal launch. Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon cut the ceremonial ribbon with Anthony's Wines president Tita Trillo and founder/chair Anthony Trillo.

Chef Mariano Anos of Beluga Bistro and Pravda Wine Bar was on hand to witness the delight of the guests who were served Pravda's signature spicy Spanish shrimps, slivers of marinated tenderloin tips, Mexican quesadillas and a wonderful array of canapés topped with caviar, Camembert cheese, olives and paté. For dessert, the chef prepared Beluga's famous Blueberry Cheesecake.

Matching the fine array of food was a soft and medium-bodied Chilean wine with intense aromas of ripe fruits, the Caliterra Merlot, and a lively, fruity and fresh Bordeaux, Baron Philippe de Rothschild's Agneau Blanc, was served.

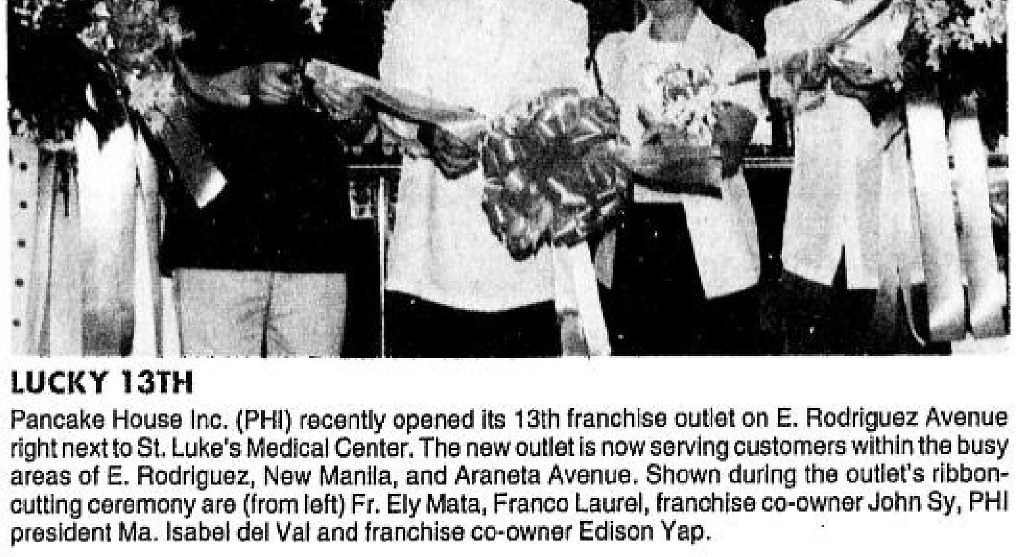
Seen at the party were Chaine Des Rottiseurs president Fred Fricke, Duty Free general manager Michael Kho, customs officials Adelina Molina and Ellah Calleja, and a delegation of DFP managers and personnel, Anthony's Wines' sales team and some loyal customers.

ONE HAPPY FAMILY. The Rocha family enjoying their wines—Caliterra Merlot and Baron Philippe de Rothschild's Agneau Blanc.

TASTEMAKERS

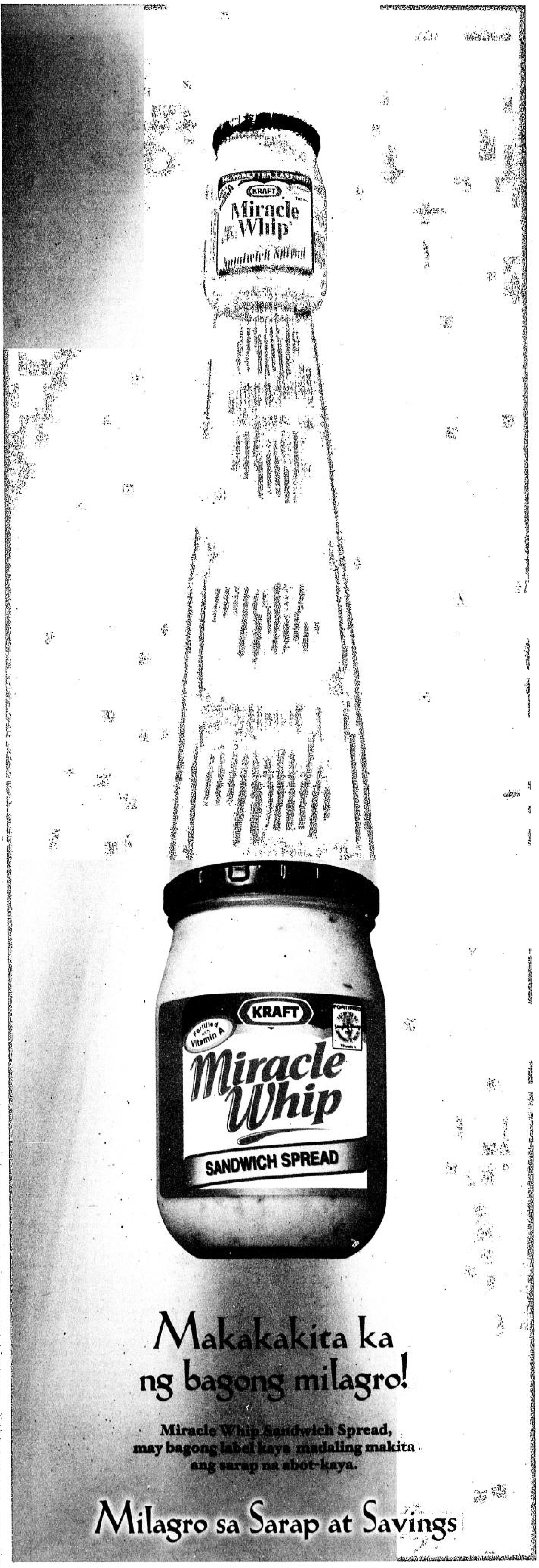
LATTE AND A LATE MOVIE

Starbucks opened two new stores this month: its 33rd store at the 4/F cinema level of Robinsons Galleria in Ortigas Center and its 34th store on West Avenue. The latter is a neighborhood store that caters to the residents of West Triangle, Philam Homes, Heroes Hills and other surrounding villages. Starbucks is the leading coffee roaster and retailer in the industry. Rustan's Coffee is the authorized licensee of Starbucks Coffee in the Philippines.



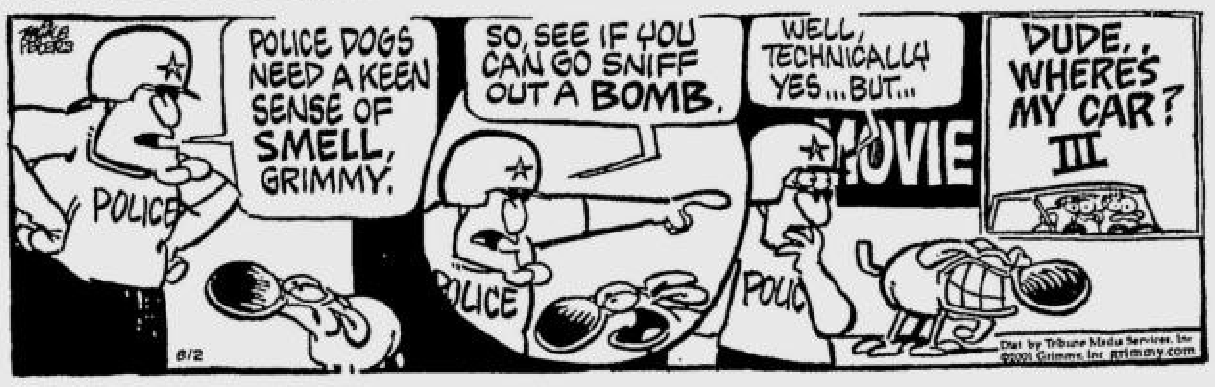
LUCKY 13TH

Pancake House Inc. (PHI) recently opened its 13th franchise outlet on E. Rodriguez Avenue right next to St. Luke's Medical Center. The new outlet is now serving customers within the busy areas of E. Rodriguez, New Manila, and Araneta Avenue. Shown during the outlet's ribbon-cutting ceremony are (from left) Fr. Ely Mata, Franco Laurel, franchise co-owner John Sy, PHI president Ma. Isabel del Val and franchise co-owner Edison Yap.



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


POLICE DOGS NEED A KEEN SENSE OF SMELL, GRIMMY.
POLICE
SO, SEE IF YOU CAN GO SNIFF OUT A BOMB.
WELL, TECHNICALLY YES...BUT...
MOVIE
DUDE.. WHERE'S MY CAR? III
8/2
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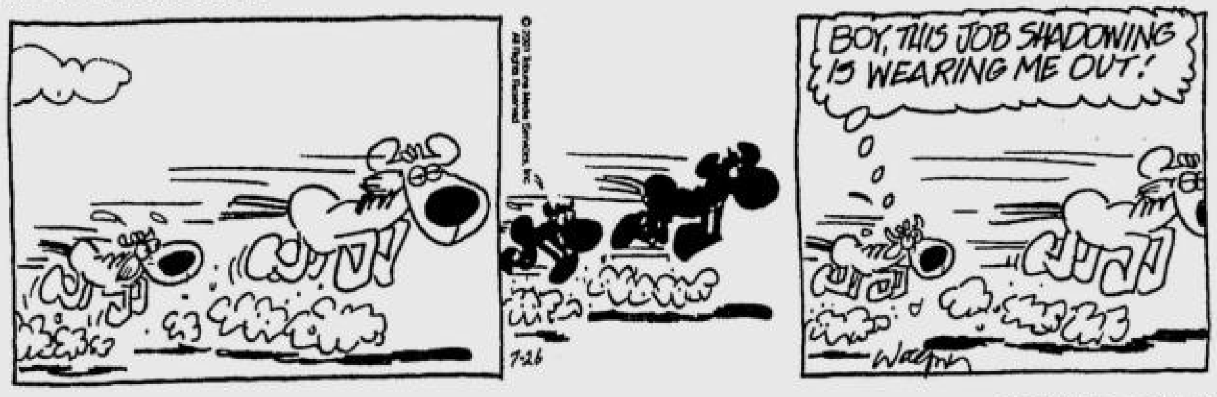
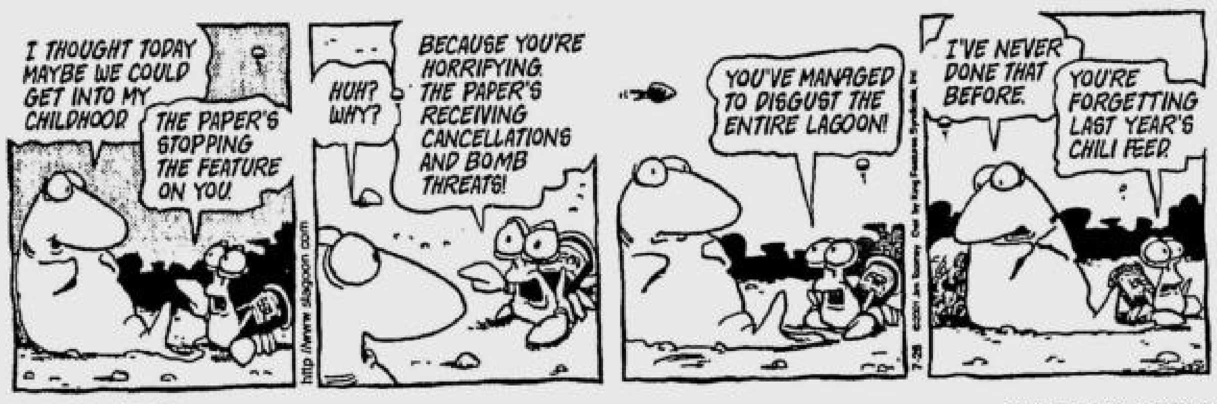
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


BOY, THIS JOB SHADOWING IS WEARING ME OUT!
7-26

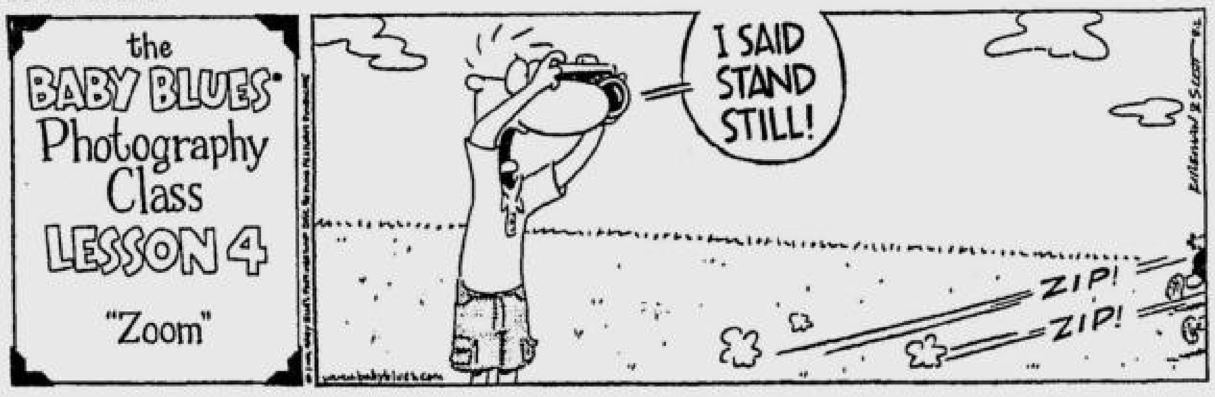
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I THOUGHT TODAY MAYBE WE COULD GET INTO MY CHILDHOOD
THE PAPER'S STOPPING THE FEATURE ON YOU.
HUH? WHY?
BECAUSE YOU'RE HORRIFYING. THE PAPER'S RECEIVING CANCELLATIONS AND BOMB THREATS!
YOU'VE MANAGED TO DISGUST THE ENTIRE LAGOON!
I'VE NEVER DONE THAT BEFORE.
YOU'RE FORGETTING LAST YEAR'S CHILI FEED.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


the BABY BLUES Photography Class LESSON 4 "Zoom"
I SAID STAND STILL!
ZIP!
ZIP!
www.babyblues.com

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ted Williams, Cameron Diaz, R. Crumb, Robert Parrish, Timothy Bottoms, Elizabeth Ashley

Happy Birthday: You'll be tempted to take things too far this year. If you pursue goals that are too broad or all-consuming, you may fall short. Scale down a bit to find the road to success. Excess will be the enemy and prudence the best ally. Once you've overcome temptation to expand too quickly, everything will fall into place. Your numbers: 4, 17, 22, 25, 31, 36

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Someone who appears to be interested in you may just be trying to find out secret information. Don't mix business with pleasure. You will be inclined to fall in love for the wrong reasons.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Force yourself to get involved in competitive events that require stamina and endurance. Someone from the past is likely to come back into your life. Be careful not to forgive too readily.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Demands will be put on you. Don't make promises that you can't fulfill and be careful where you invest your money. Help older relatives make the right choices.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Sudden romance will end as quickly as it began. Focus on your work, and let your private life take shape slowly.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Romantic relationships will develop through colleagues. Your personal life has been stressful, but don't blame yourself. It's time to get rid of the old and bring on the new.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): The changes you make regarding friendships are long overdue. You need to be with individuals who have more in common and who can provide a challenge mentally.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Secret affairs will lead only to heartache. Sudden changes could result in estrangements. Don't be too harsh with loved ones; there are always two sides to an issue.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may have difficulties relating to foreigners. Try to understand their point of view before making a harsh decision that you will regret. Your all-or-nothing attitude will be a problem.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't be surprised by changes at work. You will prosper in the end by keeping your cool and accepting any alterations. Professionalism will pay off.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be confused regarding your personal life. Try to be fair. Talk to your mate and spell out the problems that need to be rectified for your relationship to continue.

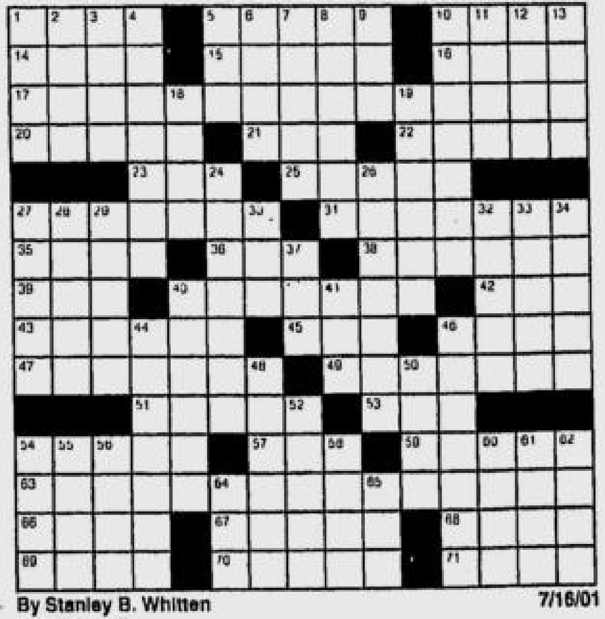
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Become involved in groups that offer help to those less fortunate. Your ability to lend a helping hand will be well-rewarded by the satisfaction you receive.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your involvement in physical activities will be the key to getting back into shape. You always do better when you feel good about yourself, so get busy and make the necessary changes.

Birthday Baby: You are creative, dreamlike and slightly ahead of your time. You have a detached way of looking at things that allow you to deal with whatever issues you face. You are very observant and therefore a gifted mediator.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

7/16/01

ACROSS

1 Browse the Web
5 Baldwin and Guinness
10 Bit of gossip
14 Composer Stravinsky
15 Bit of gossip
16 Writer Ephron
17 Vegetarian 007 film producer?
20 Botch
21 Writer Kesey
22 Lubricated
23 Pair
25 Try to disprove
27 Most ethereal
31 Store of weapons
35 Merriment
36 Cow call
38 Apparitions
39 Turkish title
40 Vegetarian "Law West of the Pecos?"
42 Dress
43 Keystroke mini-programs
45 Sort
46 Stridex target
47 Apollo's twin
49 Light comparative
51 Examples
53 Cart track
54 UFO rider?
57 Meriwether or Grant
59 Bill attachment
63 Vegetarian Bush adviser?
66 Detest
67 Agassi of tennis
68 Cupid
69 Slaughter of baseball
70 Central American language group
71 Pockmark

DOWN

1 Thailand, once
2 Citrus fruit
3 Steals
4 Skelton's "freeloader"
5 Deco lead-in
6 Skulk about
7 Burning coal
8 Part of an eye
9 Theater-sign letters
10 Provoked
11 Screwdriver, e.g.
12 Perry's creator
13 Domestic help
18 Rake
19 "My __ Vinny"
24 Fluid diffusion
26 Cresting wave
27 Long-tailed lizard
28 "Pomp and Circumstance" composer
29 Give feedback
30 Plaything
32 V-shaped cut
33 By oneself
34 Pub order
37 Japanese sash
40 Kind of cheese
41 Sprite
44 Draws back
46 Dressed
48 Jennifer Lopez movie role
50 Emanation
52 Worn and shabby
54 Pain
55 Bank transaction
56 Division word
58 Bible book
60 Urgent
61 Bus. sch. course
62 Remainder
64 Flight from the law
65 School of Buddhism

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

R	A	C	E	H	O	R	S	E	■	B	R	I	A	N
I	N	A	M	O	R	A	T	A	■	R	O	N	D	O
D	I	S	C	R	E	D	I	T	■	O	C	C	U	R
G	L	E	E	S	■	■	R	E	P	■	S	O	M	E
E	S	S	E	■	P	L	U	R	A	L	■	M	B	A
■	■	■	S	T	R	A	P	■	R	I	D	E	R	S
D	U	O	■	R	I	C	■	H	A	B	I	T	A	T
I	N	V	O	I	C	E	■	A	N	I	M	A	T	E
S	H	E	E	T	E	D	■	R	O	D	■	X	E	R
S	O	R	R	O	W	■	P	R	I	O	R	■	■	■
E	N	D	■	N	A	G	O	Y	A	■	H	A	L	E
M	O	O	T	■	R	U	T	■	■	B	O	L	A	S
B	R	I	E	F	■	A	T	O	N	E	M	E	N	T
L	E	N	T	O	■	V	E	R	T	E	B	R	A	E
E	D	G	E	R	■	A	R	T	H	R	I	T	I	S

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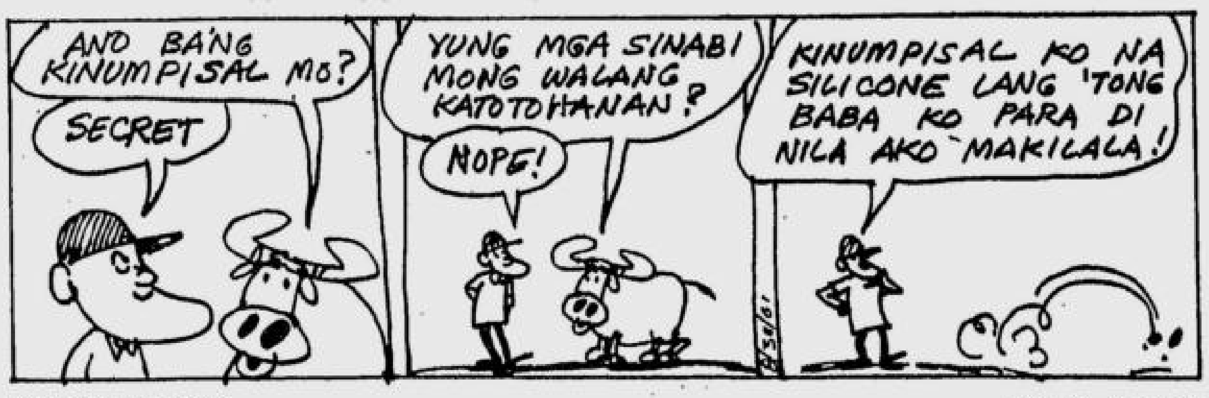
7/16/01

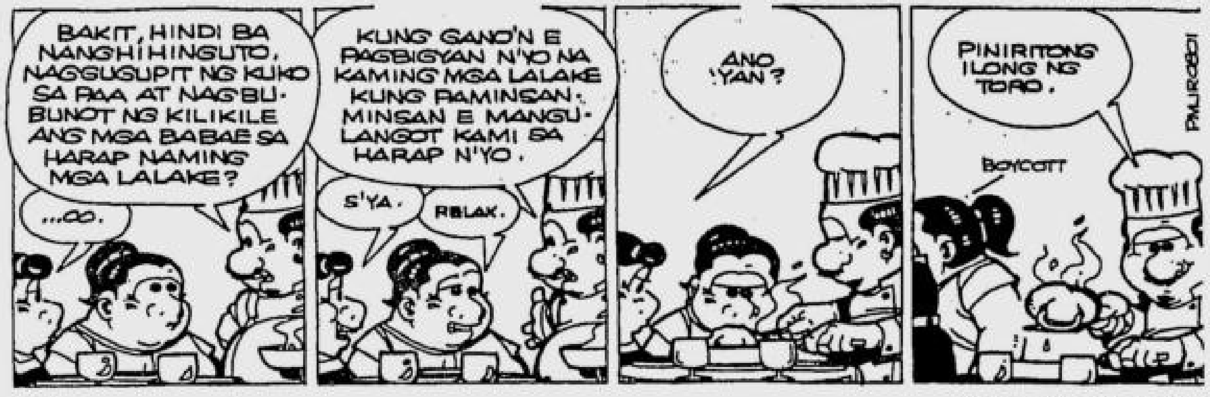
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANO BA'NG KINUMPISAL MO?
SECRET
YUNG MGA SINABI MONG WALANG KATOTOHANAN?
NOPE!
KINUMPISAL KO NA SILICONE LANG 'TONG BABA KO PARA DI NILA AKO MAKILALA!

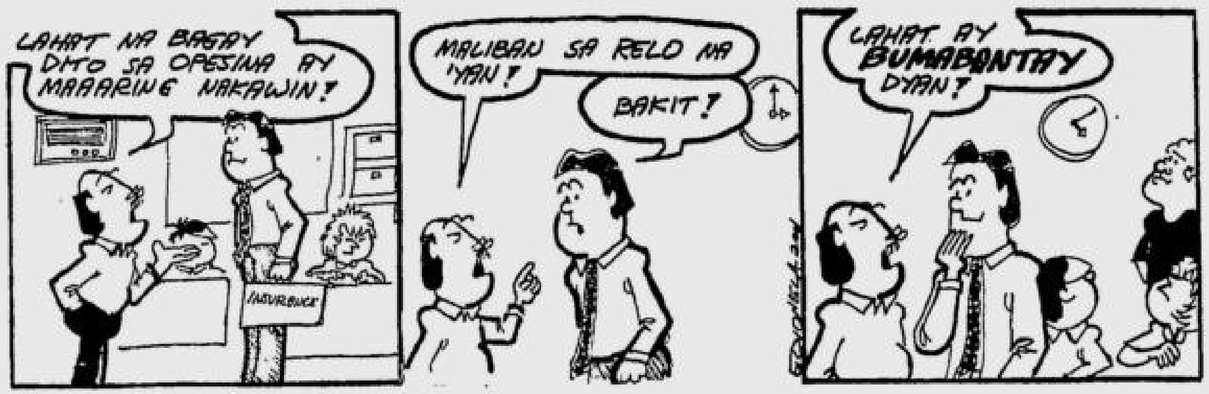
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


BAKIT, HINDI BA NANGHIHINGUTO, NAGGUGUPIT NG KUKO SA PAA AT NAGBUBUNOT NG KILIKILI ANG MGA BABAE SA HARAP NAMING MGA LALAKE?
...OO.
KUNG GANO'N E PAGBIGYAN N'YO NA KAMING MGA LALAKE KUNG PAMINSAN-MINSAN E MANGULANGOT KAMI SA HARAP N'YO.
S'YA.
RELAK.
ANO 'YAN?
PINIRITONG ILONG NG TORO.
BOYCOTT

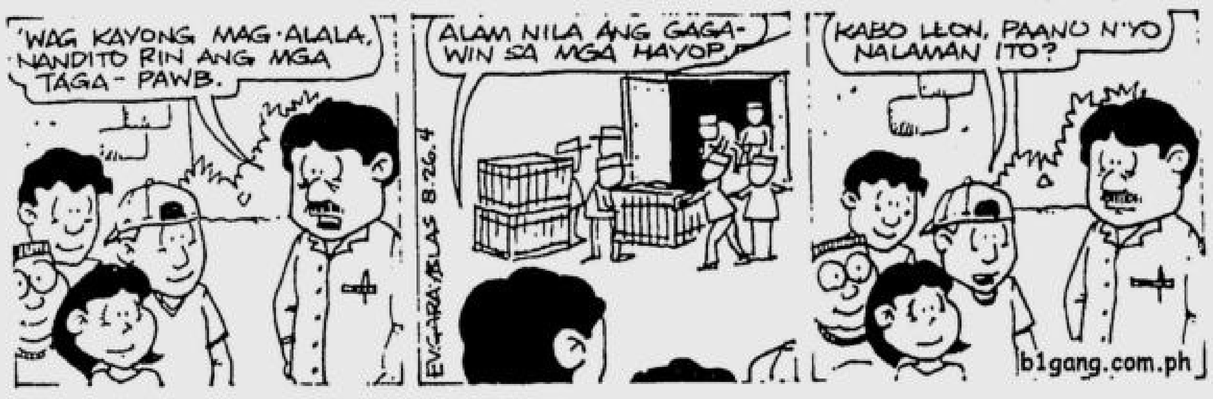
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


LAHAT NA BAGAY DITO SA OPESINA AY MAAARING NAKAWIN!
INSURANCE
MALIBAN SA RELO NA 'YAN!
BAKIT!
LAHAT AY BUMABANTAY DYAN!

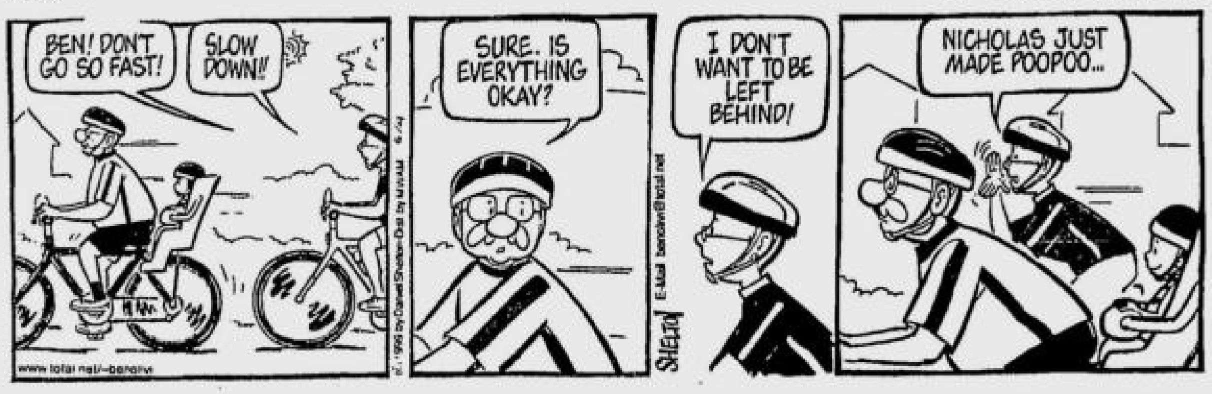
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


'WAG KAYONG MAG-ALALA, NANDITO RIN ANG MGA TAGA-PAWB.
ALAM NILA ANG GAGAWIN SA MGA HAYOP.
EVGARA/BLAS 8.26.4
KABO LEON, PAANO N'YO NALAMAN ITO?
b1gang.com.ph

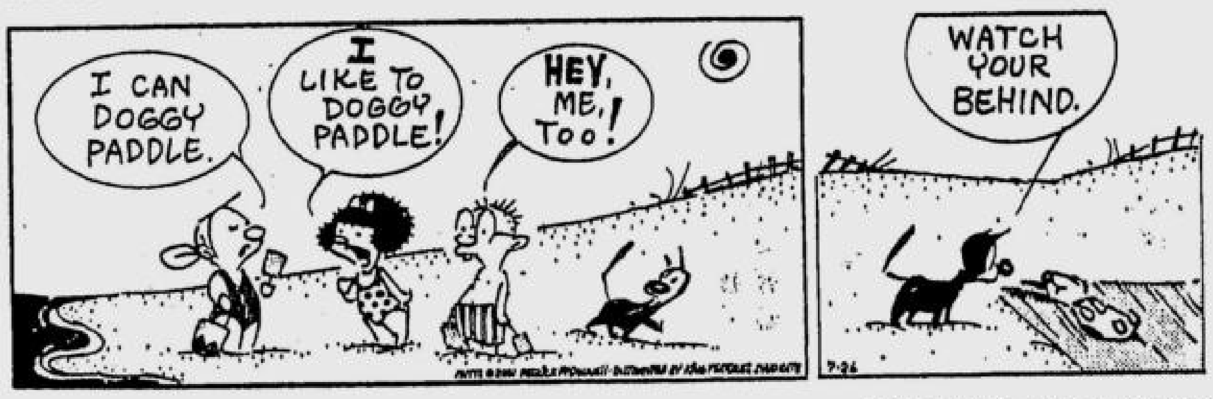
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN! DON'T GO SO FAST!
SLOW DOWN!!
SURE. IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
I DON'T WANT TO BE LEFT BEHIND!
NICHOLAS JUST MADE POOPOO...
SHELTON

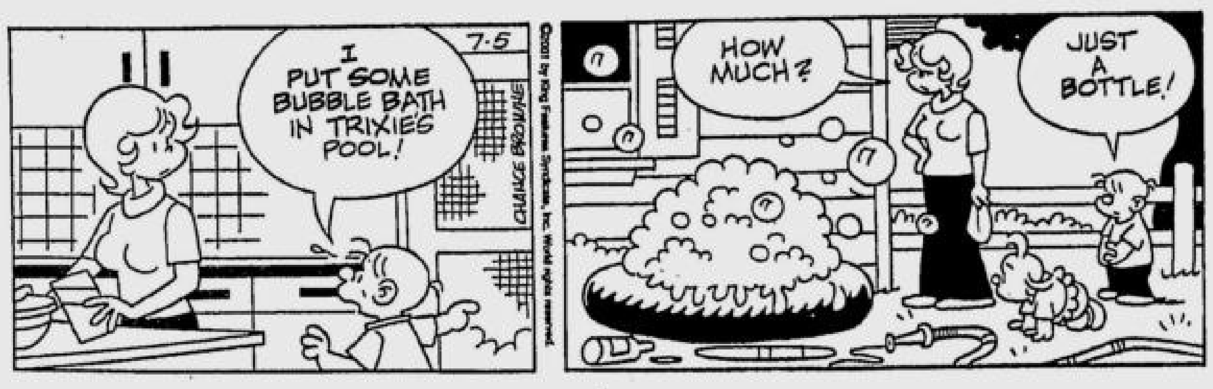
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I CAN DOGGY PADDLE.
I LIKE TO DOGGY PADDLE!
HEY, ME, TOO!
WATCH YOUR BEHIND.
7-26

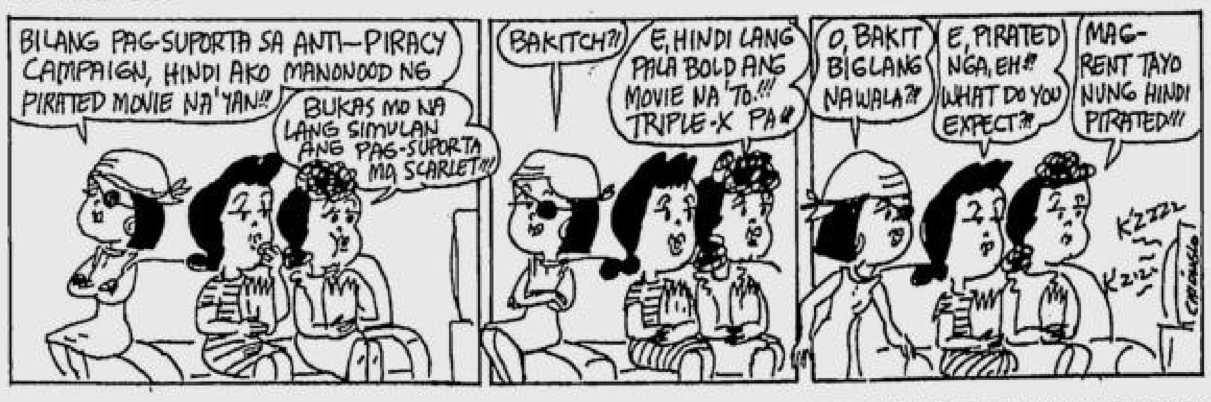
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


7-5
I PUT SOME BUBBLE BATH IN TRIXIE'S POOL!
CHANCE BROWNE
HOW MUCH?
JUST A BOTTLE!

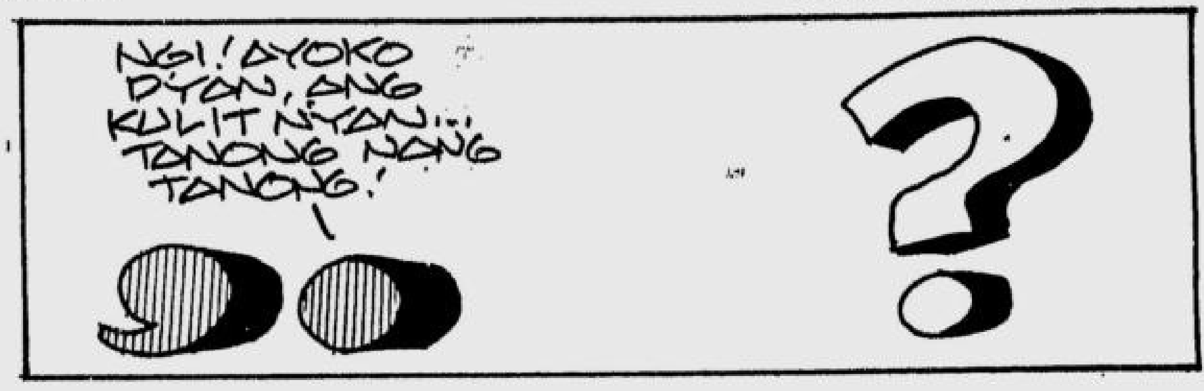
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BILANG PAG-SUPORTA SA ANTI-PIRACY CAMPAIGN, HINDI AKO MANONOOD NG PIRATED MOVIE NA 'YAN!!
BUKAS MO NA LANG SIMULAN ANG PAG-SUPORTA MA SCARLET!!!
BAKITCH?!!
E, HINDI LANG PALA BOLD ANG MOVIE NA 'TO!!! TRIPLE-X PA!!
O, BAKIT BIGLANG NAWALA?!!
E, PIRATED NGA, EH!! WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?!!
MAG-RENT TAYO NUNG HINDI PIRATED!!!
KZZZZ
KZZZZ

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


NGI! AYOKO D'YAN, ANG KULIT N'YAN... TANONG NANG TANONG!

Three pairs in a barn

COUPLES. (From left) Kit and Happy Santana, Anjeanette and Arnie Fuentebella, Ronnie and Mariz Ricketts

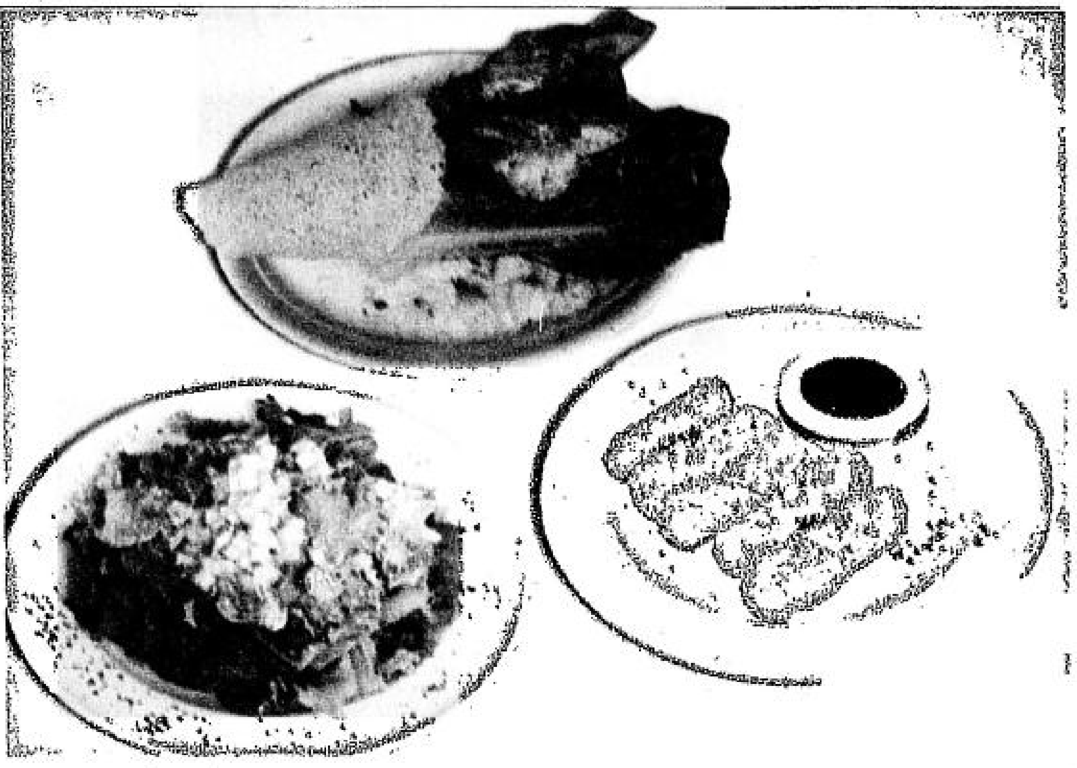
THE THREE young couples behind The Barn restaurant on Katipunan are linked by friendship.

Happy Santana and Mariz Ricketts have been friends since high school. It was through them that their husbands, Kit and Ronnie, met and eventually became buddies. Arnie and Anjeanette Fuentebella and Paul Takai studied in UP Diliman. Their paths crossed again a couple of years ago, and they decided to do business together.

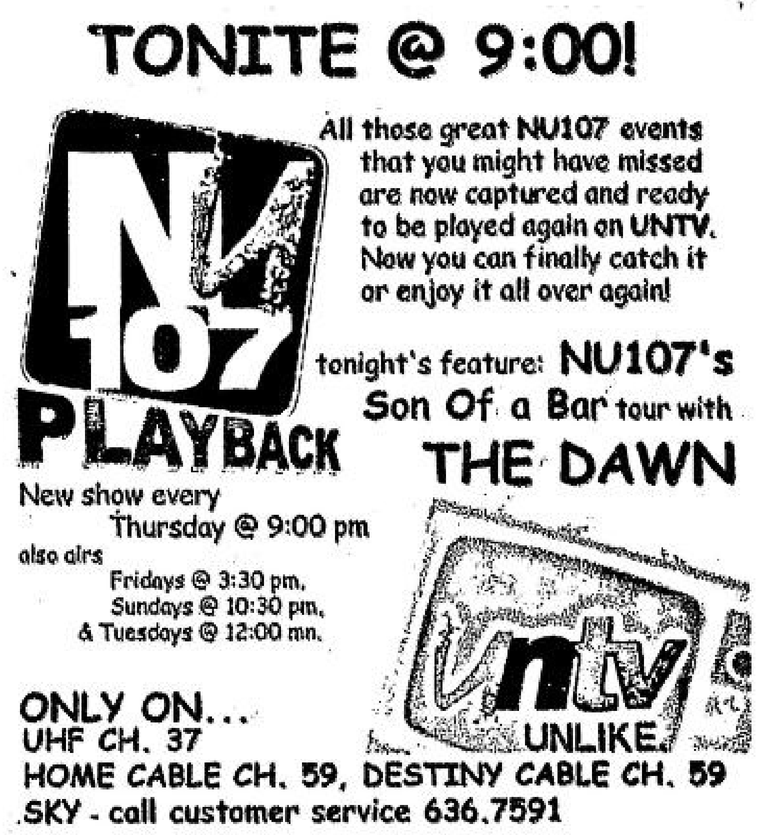
They have always been entrepreneurs, but of varied persuasions—movies, real estate, security agency, car rental service, resort and country club, even politics.

By coincidence they found a corner arcade on Katipunan Avenue, fronting Miriam College in Quezon City. All of them had been at one time or another residents of the area or students of the nearby universities, so they came up with The Barn, a combination resto-bar-grill.

The Barn's pizza and pasta choices are big favorites, as are The Barn burger with bacon and special sauce and their original creations, the garlic mashed potatoes and baby back ribs, the smoked *tilapia* salad with sesame vinaigrette and the Classic Caesar Salad served in a Parmesan cone. There are Asian and Filipino dishes as well.



BESTSELLERS. (Clockwise) Classic Caesar's salad in Parmesan cone, mozzarella poppers with marinara sauce and smoked *tilapia* salad with sesame dressing



TONITE @ 9:00!

All those great NU107 events that you might have missed are now captured and ready to be played again on UNTV. Now you can finally catch it or enjoy it all over again!

tonight's feature: NU107's Son Of a Bar tour with THE DAWN

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Two seasoned restaurateurs, one destination

JOEY Camara and Vicente Angliongto Jr. are the faces and forces behind the newest dining places at Eastwood City Walk, Metro Manila's up-and-coming dining and entertainment hub.

Joey's aversion to a 9-to-5 work schedule led him to the restaurant business. "It just isn't me [working in an office]. I love the great outdoors. I fit into a structured lifestyle," Joey explained.

He had his first restaurant venture in the mid-'80s, a hip bar and café called Roxy, using the money that was going to pay for his studies toward a master's degree.

Roxy lasted for 12 years. For Joey, it was a gamble that paid off. He recounts: "I was straight out of college then. I had a lot of dreams, a lot of energy and I was eager to learn the business. I got help from Nani Labrador, who was also in the food business. I used her well-stocked library and she gave me advice on how to get started. I did everything on my own—from the menu to the bar and the design. I was a one-man team."

Groomed for the grill

Today, after his "baptism of fire" with Roxy, he has started a new project, Mystic Grill, a string of restaurants that include Cafe Caribana, Garlic Rose and World Chicken. He has teamed up with Louie Llamado and Vanessa Yap.

Mystic Grill promises barbecue buffs a fresh new twist to roasted favorites. The name for spirited flamed barbecue, Mystic Grill offers a scrumptious selection of freshly grilled tenderloin, ribs, chicken, seafood and burgers in special marinades. An international selection of sauces and sidings made from all-natural ingredients complete the delightful dining experience.

Joey, who also dabbles in photography, thinks the restaurant business is akin to art. "It is like painting with the whole restaurant concept as your canvass. You've got to work with all five senses."

He says Mystic Grill resulted from his frustration with restaurants that did not care much about the quality of preparation. "At Mystic Grill, we will be putting a lot of soul, a lot of spirit into the flavors. We believe in serving food fresh from the grill," he says.

Natural-born entrepreneur

Restaurants were already part of the lifestyle of Angliongto Jr. (Chito to his friends) before they became his business. "Fourteen years ago, I went out almost every night. One day, I told myself, 'Instead of me spending money, why don't I make money (from restaurants)?' And that's how I got into the business."

He started the ever-popular Reasons jazz bar on Pasay Road in 1987, which later grew into several outlets. In 1990, with the support of his late father, Chito was running three restaurants. When his father passed away, he decided to let his sister handle the business. Before long, however, Chito was back to his first love.

In 1996, he set up Travessía also on Pasay Road, Makati, which attracted the trendsetters and who's who in the Makati night scene.

CHITO Angliongto Jr. of Blue Onion

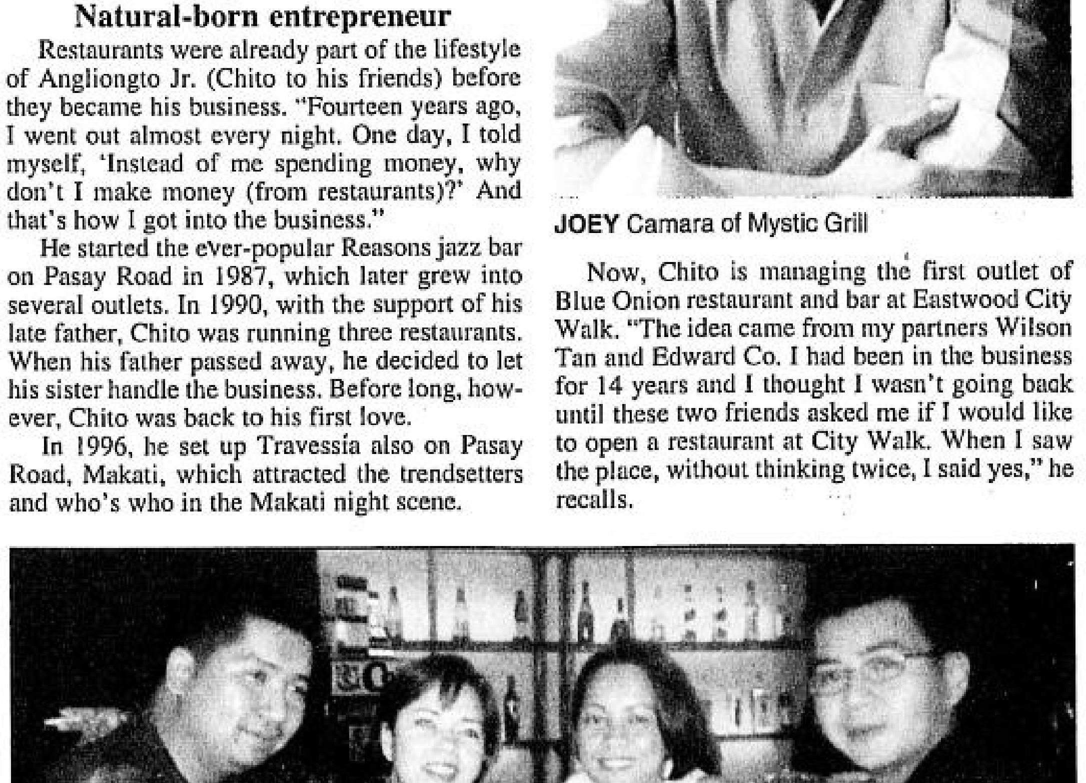
JOEY Camara of Mystic Grill

Now, Chito is managing the first outlet of Blue Onion restaurant and bar at Eastwood City Walk. "The idea came from my partners Wilson Tan and Edward Co. I had been in the business for 14 years and I thought I wasn't going back until these two friends asked me if I would like to open a restaurant at City Walk. When I saw the place, without thinking twice, I said yes," he recalls.

Blue Onion is the place to go for those who like Japanese, Chinese, Korean or Filipino food. "We don't want to limit our menu to just one type of cuisine. We'd like to be the place where people will find the most popular dishes [from different] cuisines. Our main selling point is variety. Without spending a lot, the customer gets the best value for his money in terms of food, amenities and a non-stuffy ambience."

Chito has honed his standards and eye for detail. "I told my partners we have to excel in all departments…I'm not saying we'll be perfect all the time. We may not get a perfect 10 in every instance, but neither will we get a score of 5 or 6."

Chito and his partners want to open a Blue Onion outlet every year and a half.



LOFTY ONE

That eye-catching, head-turning, steely hangout place with the orange signage and blue billiard tables on Katipunan Avenue—Loft 216—is turning 1 this September. And in preparation for its big anniversary celebration, this hot gimmick spot will be treating and entertaining patrons with tons of freebies. They are giving away free welcome drinks, appetizers, anniversary gifts, among others. The highlight of this "lofty" event, however, will be the Oct. 1 bash where prizes will be raffled off. Loft 216 is located at 216 Katipunan Ave., Blue Ridge, QC (tel. 647-8113/14).

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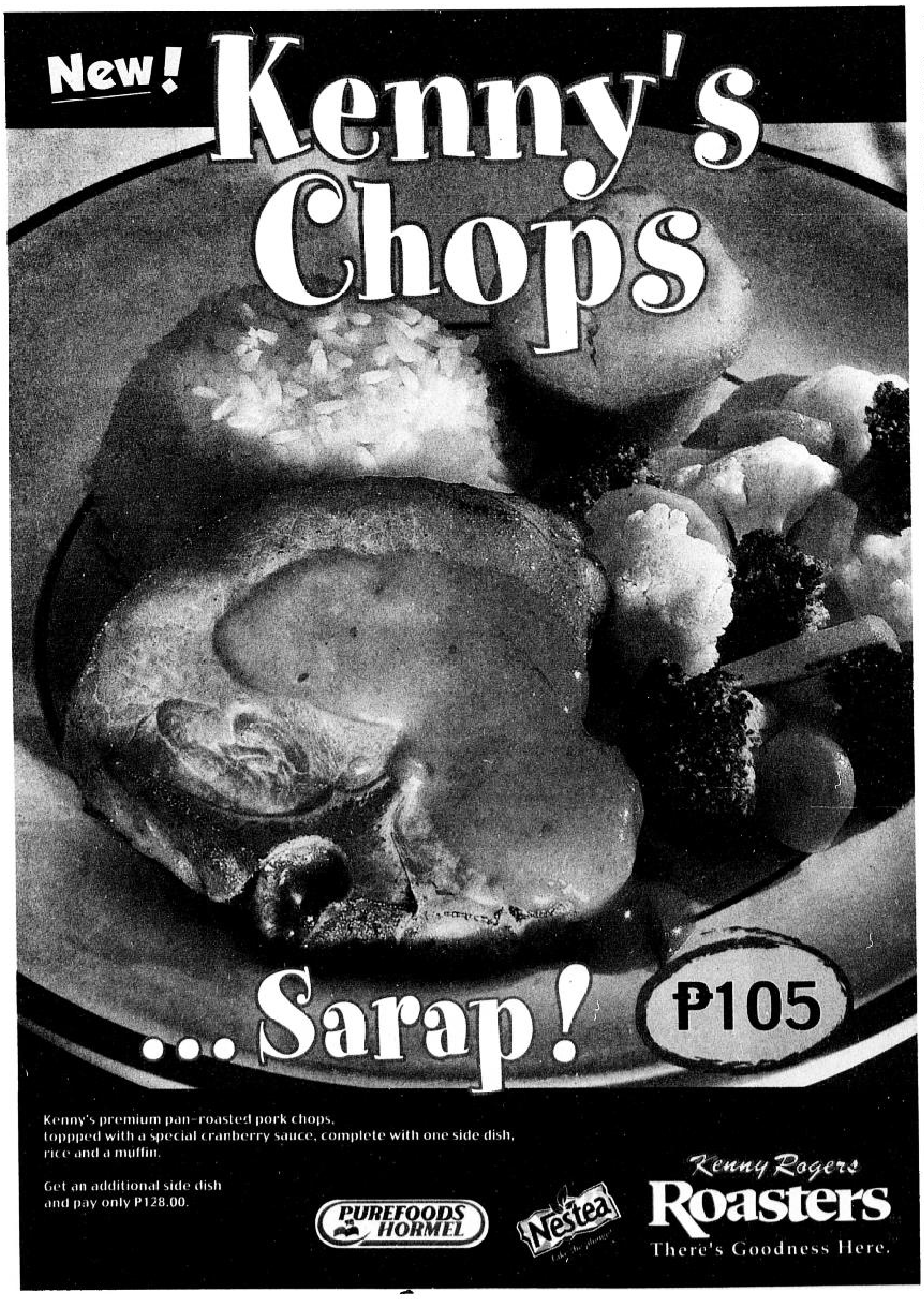
New! Kenny's Chops

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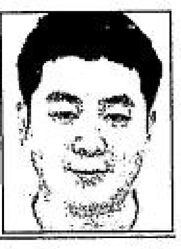
ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Excess vs moderation

THERE are movies that they say embody the *Zeitgeist*, which can be literally translated as "the spirit of the times," and there are the divisive movies, the ones that you either get or don't get (which is not the same as liking or not liking them).

They are strange bedfellows: not quite flip sides of a coin, but somehow contingent to, or dependent on, the other

THE MAD TEA PARTY



Clinton Palanca

A divisive movie that recently completed its run at the local theaters is "Moulin Rouge," and whenever I meet strangers these days, one of my first questions is what they thought of the movie. I'm not insisting that everyone be enraptured by or sing lyrical praise of the movie, but you can tell instantly if they "got" the movie or not. If it's the latter, then, as Monty Python would have it, "Your father was a hamster and your mother smelled of elderberries."

I myself have watched the movie four times, with three different sets of people and once alone. The second time around, we caught the last full show after dinner at my apartment, and I poured us all a round of absinthe before making our way, somewhat unsteadily, to the cinemas. The absinthe was, for me, an enhancement: you don't need absinthe (or, as a friend insisted, an inhalation of cannabis) to enjoy the movie. You walk out feeling as though intoxicated, as though you've emerged from a dreamworld illuminated by fantastical imagination, as though you've recovered a part of yourself that you lost somewhere along the way.

In a way, the movie is a movie of its time: it's post-modern and self-conscious, as anyone with thick glasses will tell you. It weaves allusions and references to pop culture, the way T.S. Eliot ("great poets steal") did in "The Waste Land." It's a musical about musicals (not coincidentally, the first conception of *Spectacular Spectacular* was the most famous musical of all, "The Sound of Music"); the musical is itself a direct descendant of the opera, which is known for impossible love, overflowing emotionality and consumptive heroines who take 20 minutes to die while singing at top volume. I urged everyone to watch it: "It's about everything I stand for and believe in!" Truth, beauty, freedom and love? "No: Paris, velvet cushions, finely fringed curtains, doomed romances, starving writers..."

It's not just that the set of "Moulin Rouge" is what my apartment would look like if I had the money for it; the movie is, in every way, excessive. The word "decadent" also comes to mind; but we associate decadence with wealth and the lifestyles of the idle rich, and that is merely dissipation, almost the antonym of another quality of the movie that strikes a chord in me, which is intensity. Passion, intensity, excessiveness: these are the touchstones of everything that I do, from my writing to my approach to food.

Champagne and caviar

The other day, my friend came back from a trip with a bottle of Perrier-Jouet champagne; I had incidentally returned from Istanbul with a tin of Beluga caviar (Turkey's coastline is also along the Black Sea). So we decided to throw a dinner of excess: caviar, champagne, lobster and chocolates from La Maison du Chocolat. The best way to enjoy caviar is with a spoon (it needn't be mother-of-pearl, merely blunt enough around the edges as so not to pierce the eggs). If this is too salty for you, then the traditional complement are blinis, which are glorified pancakes. Drowning the caviar with chopped onions, capers, crumbled bits of hard-boiled egg, and so on, is only necessary for the black lumpfish "caviar" that you buy off supermarket shelves.

In the end, what I did was almost a direct act of plagiarism from Alain Passard's L'Arpege: he served a quenelle of caviar on avocado mousse, with pistachio oil. Avocados are in season these days, so I mashed one up, and came up with a pale green goo, something that looked like it might be used on a Nickelodeon game show. I added some mascarpone cheese and a small trickle of single cream, lots of salt and pepper, and came up with something that actually tasted quite good. I cannot make quenelles at the best of times, and I decided that a $300 tin of caviar was not the best of materials to practice on. So I plopped large splats of caviar on the mousse in a martini glass. As for the pistachio oil, I had some pistachios, but they were salted, unshelled and came in a foil pack marked "Northwest Airlines"; I had no idea how they could be made to render oil, so I used sesame oil (Lee Kum Kee, actually) instead. The result was divine. At least, I thought so; my guests agreed, although, since I had just shown them my collection of swords and firearms before dinner, their assessment might not have been completely objective.

Not complimentary

Excess, I realize, is not a complimentary quality. It is excess of speed that kills motorists on the highway; it is excess of power that leads politicians to greed; it was excess of sedatives that killed Marilyn Monroe, although I still think the CIA had something to do with it. An excess of salt or of chilies can make a dish inedible. I once tried to eat an entire Peking Duck by myself, and while contemplating dessert I literally blacked out, the same way I did when I tried to play squash with a very beautiful but athletic girl (our games, since then, have been played on my home turf: Boggle, Scrabble and Name-That-Wittgenstein-Quotation).

The antonym of excess is moderation: the sensible middle path that is the key to a healthy life. Moderation is the step-by-step transition from courting to dating to engagement to marriage. Moderation is a warm glass of (skimmed) milk before eight hours of sleep and a healthy breakfast, which is, after all, the most important meal of the day. Moderation is, in the older theories of aesthetics, the essence of beauty, when one had to conform to academic rules of composition in order to have one's painting exhibited at the salons. Moderation is

EXCESS/ p. C2

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LIFESTYLE

Ché with a star

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

WITHOUT A STAR, it can be a Filipino expression of dismissal, but with a star it can only mean Ché Guevara, pop icon of Cuba. And it is he after whom this café (Lopez Drive, PowerPlant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati; telefax 898-0965/0967) is named.

Of course it has cigars, and their labels and boxes dominate the Andy Locsin-designed interiors. Cigars from P20-600 and up are offered, and young and old men and women smoke them. Is it a divan then, or a bar? Yes, but not only. Of course there is food.

Owners Tommy Villanueva and Bobby Benares, the most active of the five partners, work with chefs Roberto J. Bolaños and Richard Y. Bringas on a menu that was principally Italian and Asian at first, but has gradually melded the Ché Guevara image and the food through Cuban entrées.

Appetizers (the bar menu), for example, start with peppered cheese sticks with aioli, peppery squid puffs with a sweet chili sauce, potato tacos with four cheeses, quesadillas with mozzarella pesto stuffing, and tempura-battered fish and chips, which I liked very much.

We tasted the Seafood in Basil Tomato Broth and the Roasted Pumpkin and Curried Apple

CHÉ/ p.D2

CHÉ Guevarra and Cuban cigars

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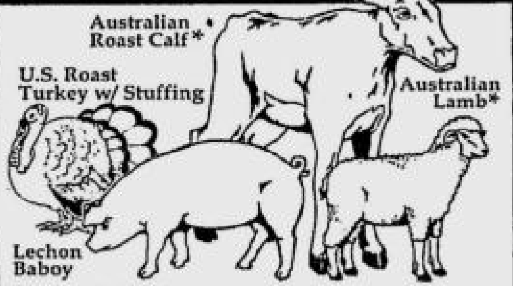

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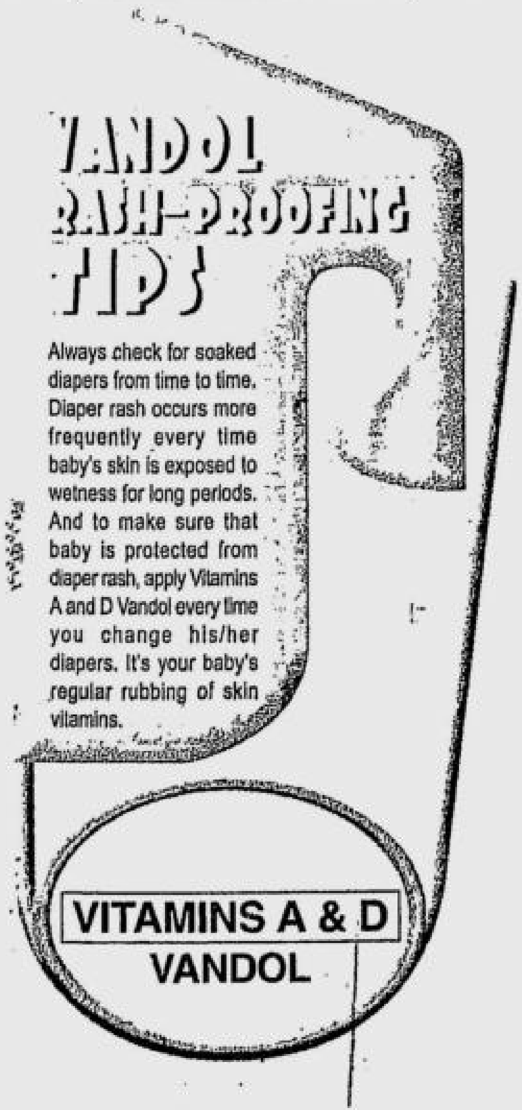
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Home cooking made safe

COOKING for one's loved ones is always an experience worth the effort. Here some friendly tips and reminders from Petron Gasul for cooks at home:

- Make sure places for food preparation conform to standards of proper hygiene. Keep kitchens clean and dry and constantly sanitized.
- If you're cooking with a gas stove, see to it that the accessories or the hose and regulator are properly fixed and connected. This will prevent LPG explosion and gas leak or wastage.
- Filipino cooking makes considerable use of spices and herbs. The use of fresh herbs and spices improves cooking immeasurably than dry, preserved seasonings. Shimmering food on open flame brings out the richness of spices and the flavor of food.
- Put in vegetables last, after the meat and sauce has cooked. Vegetables cook faster and may be overdone if put in together with the other ingredients.
- In cooking any dish with soup or sauce, bring down the heat once the soup or sauce begins to boil. This means that the food has reached its boiling point.
- Chicken meat has little or no flavor when raw, but cooking develops the flavor because of certain substances it contains like glycine and glutathione. Cook young chicken with dry heat and older chicken with moist heat to make them more palatable.
- After cooking, double check if the gas stove nozzle or regulator is tightly shut to prevent gas leak that can lead to accidents.

Petron Gasul has also come up with value-for-your-money "Lutong Bahay Deal" for the cooks of the house. Avail of up to P650 discount and grab the opportunity to put your culinary know-how to work with any of these Gasul cylinder and stove packages: two-burner stove + 7 kg Gasulito (P1,400); two-burner stove + 11 kg Kosan (P1,600); two-burner stove + 11 kg Pol (P1,550); and a one-burner stove + 7 kg Gasulito (P1,000). Each package comes with hose and regulator. These hot offers are good until Dec. 31.

See you in September's kitchen classes

AT THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts, located at the Bon Appetit, 3/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall, cooking classes for this and the following week have been scheduled as follows:

Sept. 1 and 3, sausage—Day 1: duck, lamb, seafood, chicken, turkey, beef and pork; Day 2: spring sausage (seafood, fruit and vegetables), mixed meat rice and sausage, scallop and shrimp, mixed meat and fruit.

Sept. 5 and 7, gems from the Mediterranean—Day 1: Warm Manila Clam and Tapenade Crostini Salad, Tomato Sea Bass with Garlic Risotto, Rye Flour Gnocchi with Squid Ragu, Mediterranean Chicken, Spit Fire Roasted Lamb Leg with Mint Pesto, Fried Honey Ricotta; Day 2: Grilled Aubergine and Garlic Soup, Mediterranean Style Carpaccio, Chorizo Chicken with Mediterranean Rice Salad, Herbed Mediterranean Pork Ribs, Stuffed Sea Bass En Salsa Verde, Pear Zabaglione.

Sept. 8, "My Favorite Cakes"—avocado, sausage and sauerkraut, vegetable cake, seafood cake, tomato cake, tofu cake

AT THE MAYA Kitchen Culinary Center, entrepreneurs who want to venture into bakery and bakeshop operations may enroll in basic baking on Sept. 1, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., to study hands-on techniques in preparing basic pie crusts, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads and more. Students will get free lunch.

The Maya Kitchen is at the 8/F Liberty Building, Arnaiz Avenue (Pasay Road), Makati City. Call 892-1195/5011 local 108 or e-mail mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph.

EC does it again

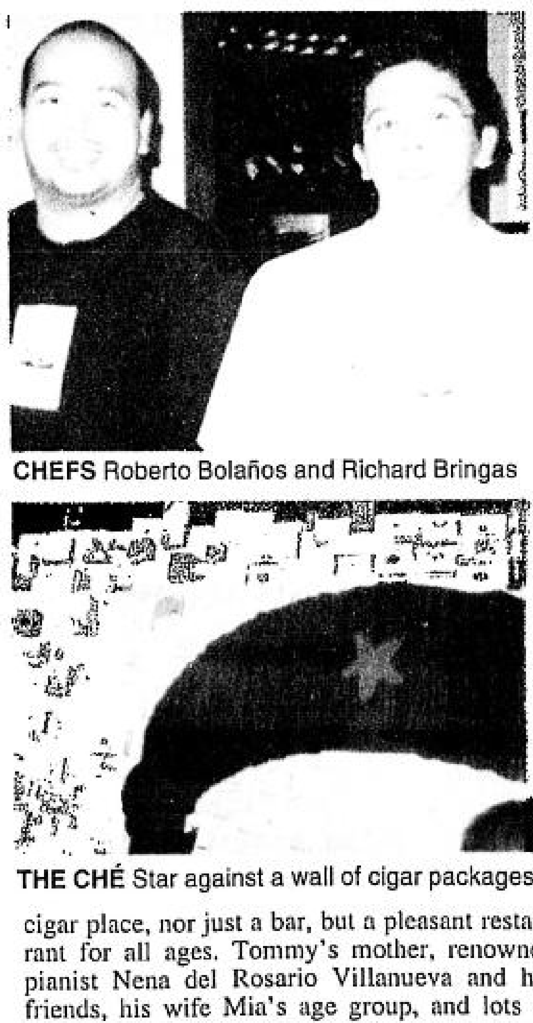
RETIRED PDI food columnist Eufemia C. Estrada has put together another kitchen must-have, a compilation that this time focuses on baking.

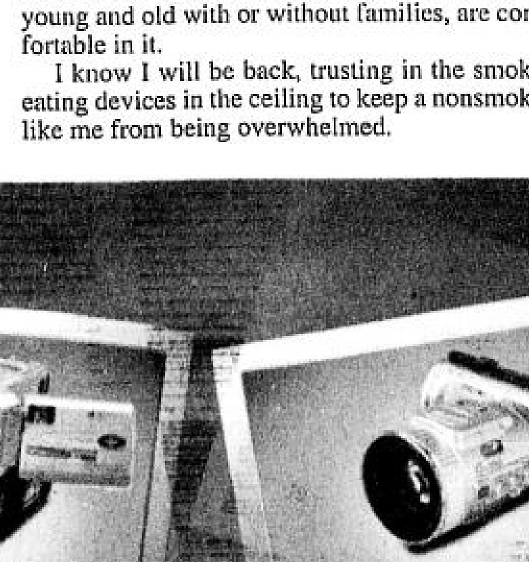
"Baking Made EC, 70 Family Favorites" will be available at the Anvil booth of the 2001 book fair at the SM Megamall Megatrade Hall, Megamall B, from Sept. 1-9. A 10 percent discount will be available from the original price of P195 per copy.

The book will also be available at all National Bookstore outlets.

Ché with a star

(From page D1)


CHEFS Roberto Bolaños and Richard Bringas


THE CHÉ Star against a wall of cigar packages

Soup, and wondered if we should stop right there; they were filling and good. There are as well a Crab and Forest Mushroom Bisque and a hearty minestrone.

Salads include a Thai Chicken and Fried Noodle Salad; one of grilled bell peppers, aubergines and zucchini, and the Ché Salad of lettuce with seared tuna in a wine vinaigrette dressing.

Sandwiches include salami Milano with creamed cottage cheese and sun-dried tomatoes, and grilled chicken in a chili and lime mayo dressing.

Pastas list Spinach Gnocchi with Quattro Formaggio (four-cheese) Sauce; Angel's Hair with *prosciutto*, sun-dried tomatoes and pine nuts; a classically simple spaghetti with fresh basil, tomato sauce and mozzarella; and a seafood pasta: shrimps, squid, mussels and clams in a tomato and pesto sauce.

Lechon pizza

The most popular pizza is one Tommy personally campaigned for: Lechon Pizza with *kesong puti*. The Pizza Margherita, too, has basil-flavored *kesong puti* as well as mozzarella. The Pizza Salmon is topped with smoked and fresh Norwegian salmon with capers and crème *fraiche*.

The box-office hit among the entrées is the Broiled Coconut-Lime Chicken with Fragrant Ginger Rice, the chicken speared on lemongrass stalks. Seared Salmon and Sherried Purée of Peas contrasts the pinkness of salmon, the pea-greenness and the brown crispness of roasted garlic potatoes. Sea bass is anise-scented; Nile Perch has a mustard dill sauce. Rib-eye is grilled, with herb balsamic vinaigrette; grilled rack of lamb served with rosemary *jus*.

The Latin Quarter lists the new dishes that provide the Cuban dimension, among them pepper-crusted pork tenderloin medallions with citrus garlic sauce, black beans and rice; pork ribs marinated in guava barbecue sauce; Caribbean Spicy Seafood cooked in coconut sauce and served with rice and red beans; and Sopa de Frijol Negro, Cuban black bean soup with salsa and crème *fraiche*.

There will also be, but of course, Cuban drinks like Mojito, or rum with fresh mint, and Cuba Libre.

Ché faces Lopez Street, and has the whole wide sidewalk to spill over into. The restaurant itself seats 32, but outside it are more tables, preferred by patrons, especially in the evenings. Even on a Maytime morning, however, I can vouch for the freshness of the breeze.

Let me assure you then that it is not just a cigar place, nor just a bar, but a pleasant restaurant for all ages. Tommy's mother, renowned pianist Nena del Rosario Villanueva and her friends, his wife Mia's age group, and lots of young and old with or without families, are comfortable in it.

I know I will be back, trusting in the smoke-eating devices in the ceiling to keep a nonsmoker like me from being overwhelmed.

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   5.1. Customers shall fill out the raffle coupon with the name, address, telephone number and affix signature and drop in the drop boxes located in all Astrovision and Executive Optical participating outlets.
6. Raffle draws will be held at WHV office at the 3rd floor JMT Corporate Condominium ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center Pasig City in the presence of a DTI representative. Monthly raffle draw dates are scheduled as follows.

TRANSACTION PERIOD	CUT OFF DATE/ DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES	RAFFLE DRAW DATE/TIME
Aug 20- Sep. 30, 2001	Sep 30, 2001	Oct. 12, 2001, Friday, 3pm
Oct. 1 - 31, 2001	Oct. 31, 2001	Nov 9, 2001, Friday, 3pm
Nov. 1 - 30, 2001	Nov 30, 2001	Dec. 14, 2001, Friday, 3pm
Dec. 1 - 31, 2001	Dec 31, 2001	Jan. 11, 2002, Friday, 3pm
Jan 1 -31, 2002	Jan 31, 2002	Feb. 15, 2002, Friday, 3pm
Feb 1 -19, 2002	Feb 19, 2002	Mar. 1, 2002, Friday, 3pm

7. Winners can win more than once in the monthly raffle draw. However, in the grand raffle draw, winner can only win once. Should a participant win more than once, he gets the prize with the bigger value.
8. Winners will be notified through registered mail. Winners will be requested to present registered mail, raffle stub and a valid identification card when claiming the prize.
9. Redemption of prizes for the monthly and a grand raffle winners shall be within 60 days from notification at the WHV office at 3/F JMT Corporate Cond. ADB Ave. Ortigas Center Pasig City. Provincial winners can claim prizes at the nearest Executive Optical/Astrovision outlets specified in the registered notice. Prizes not claimed after this date will be forfeited in favor of the sponsor, with prior approval from DTI.
10. Prizes are neither transferable nor convertible to cash. The 20% tax for prizes exceeding P10,000.00 shall be shouldered by Warner Home Video.
11. All employees of Executive Optical, Astrovision and Warner Home Video, its affiliates, their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
12. The promo coverage is nationwide.
13. The promo period is from August 20, 2001 to February 19, 2002.
14. In case of dispute, the decision of Warner Home Video, with the concurrence of DTI shall be considered final.

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It's a family affair

(From page D4)

chicken pieces mixed with a melange of crispy lettuce, rich avocado slices, salsa and sour cream served on a tortilla.

"Some guys, perhaps in an attempt to impress their dates, look for expensive items," she adds. "But we don't have expensive food here, comfort food."

Terms of endearment

Fat Michael's is named after second child Michael, 23, but it could pertain to either of the other male members of the family: dad Miguel and youngest son Mikhail, 10. Also on board are Jude and the family's eldest child Sasha, 25.

At the height of the mad-cow scare several months ago, a guest looked askance as she kept on asking where the beef came from. Sasha's nonchalant reply before exiting to get the dessert: "London."

That's nothing compared to Jude's experience. A diner once asked him with a straight face if the *paella* "comes with rice." He simply nodded before heading back to the kitchen for a good laugh. A customer once demanded to know what the hell was the extra plate for. "That's a plate liner," he recalls saying matter of factly. "We can remove it if you want."

They don't mean to be, well, mean. "The place is too small and the service too personalized so we treat regular customers like family," Davelyn assures. "We go out of our way to cater to special requests, even providing them with items off the menu. It's okay as long as we have the ingredients and they're willing to wait. They can even join us in the kitchen to help prepare their own meals."

A male model, for instance, is fond of banana split. Rather than settle for the usual vanilla ice cream, however, he always goes for chocolate. Fine. A neighbor wants his food extra spicy. No problem.

They even have their own terms of endearment for certain faithful customers. A pretty diner, for instance, earned the moniker "*buhaghag*" (loosely translated as "spread out") for refusing to eat rice formed from a cup. For some reason, she wants hers *buhaghag*.

Davelyn still gets to design homes, but their furniture business has had to take a backseat to the restaurant. The family was sidetracked into it in the first place because of hard times. "My mother-in-law used to lease this unit to a *carinderia* owner," says Davelyn. "When the tenant left, she asked us to move in and run our own *carinderia*."

Cooked to taste

That would have been the most logical thing to do, but the Camaclangs had better things in mind. With good friend Dinky Abat, a chef working for a five-star hotel, the family sampled dishes from various restaurants. "We picked out the dishes we liked," says Davelyn, "and created our own versions under Dave's supervision. We haven't stopped doing research."

Jude, who never cooked anything more complicated than sautéed egg in his life, soon joined his big sister. Talk about reinvention. It's probably the artist in him that enabled this fashionista to shift to his new role as cook with ease.

"If you have a taste for good food," he reasons, "you can easily tell the ingredients in a dish. But just to make sure, we always seek each other's opinion. We don't rely on a set of formulas. Everything is cooked here to taste."

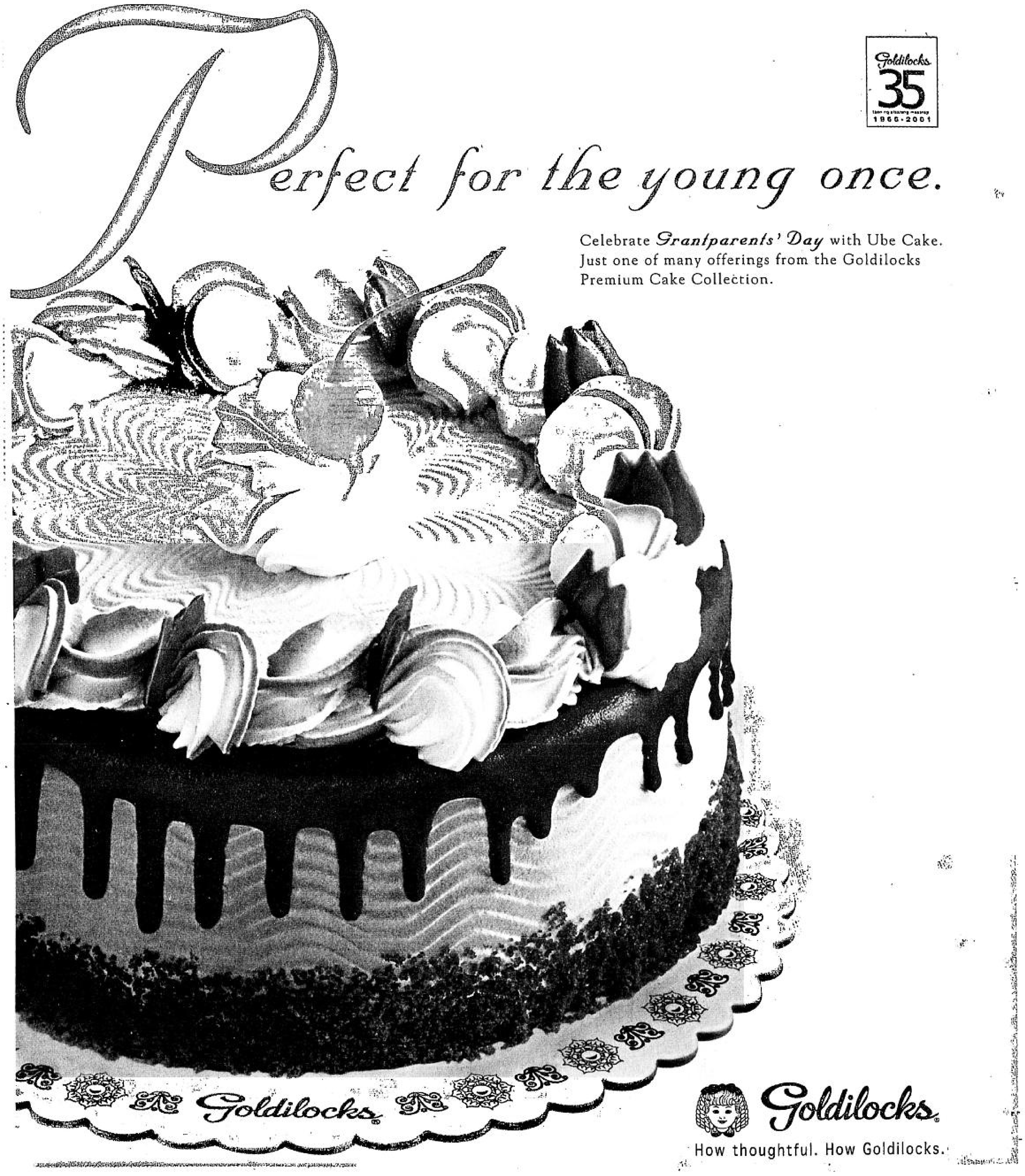
Seeing people having a good time as they savor their meals is rewarding enough for Jude. Of course, compliments from satisfied diners keep him buoyed. "There was a time," he recalls, "when a man barged into the kitchen to look for me. He wanted to thank me for a nice meal."

Diners can add salt, pepper, ketchup and chili to their meals, for all Jude cares. But he draws the line at those popular liquid seasonings. "They're free to search the kitchen. There's not a drop of liquid MSG in this house."

Part of Fat Michael's charm, of course, comes from its quaint ambiance: mismatched chairs, lamps of various sizes and inspirations, knitted curtains, glossy pictures of gourmet meals pasted on walls and a vintage 1970s color TV that doesn't seem to work but does, sans 100 or so cable channels. Paperback and hardbound classics and bestsellers occupy several shelves. Yes, some of these secondhand books are for sale as well.

"People have been encouraging us to open a branch in one of the malls," says Davelyn. "A Japanese diner even took pictures of the restaurant. He wanted to open a similar place in Japan with us as his partners." Such possibilities will have to wait. This enterprising family wants to keep things small, simple and personal for now.

E-mail the author at enigma0203@yahoo.com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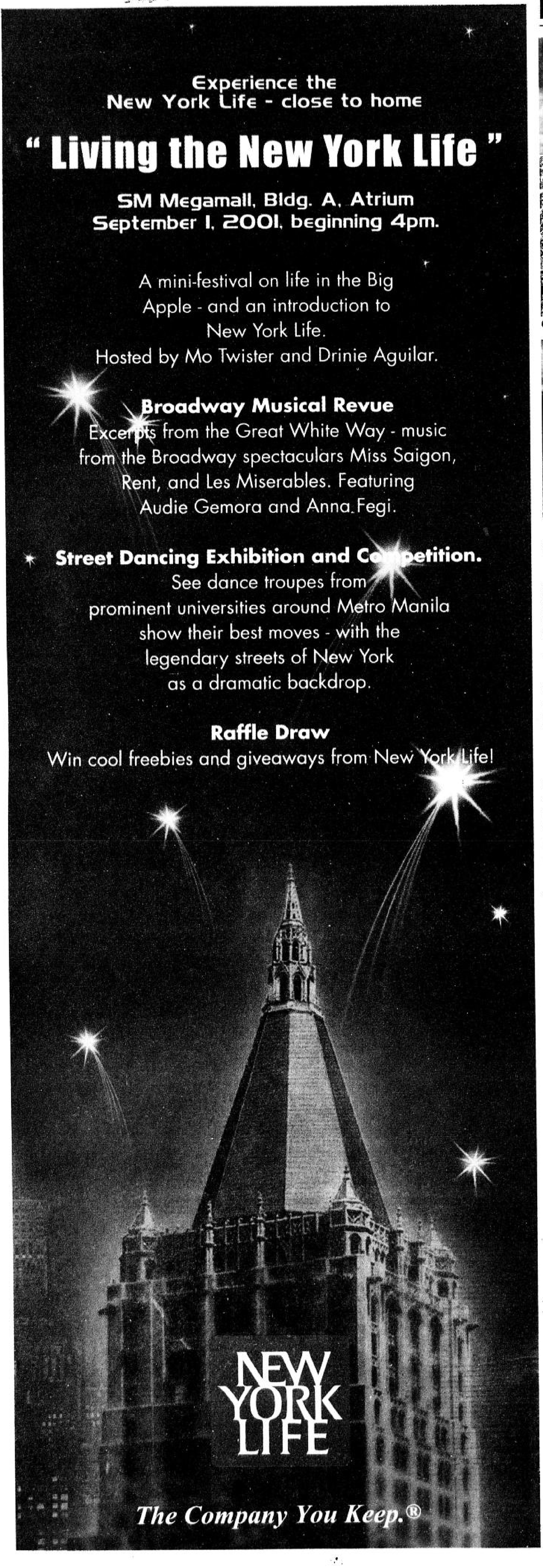
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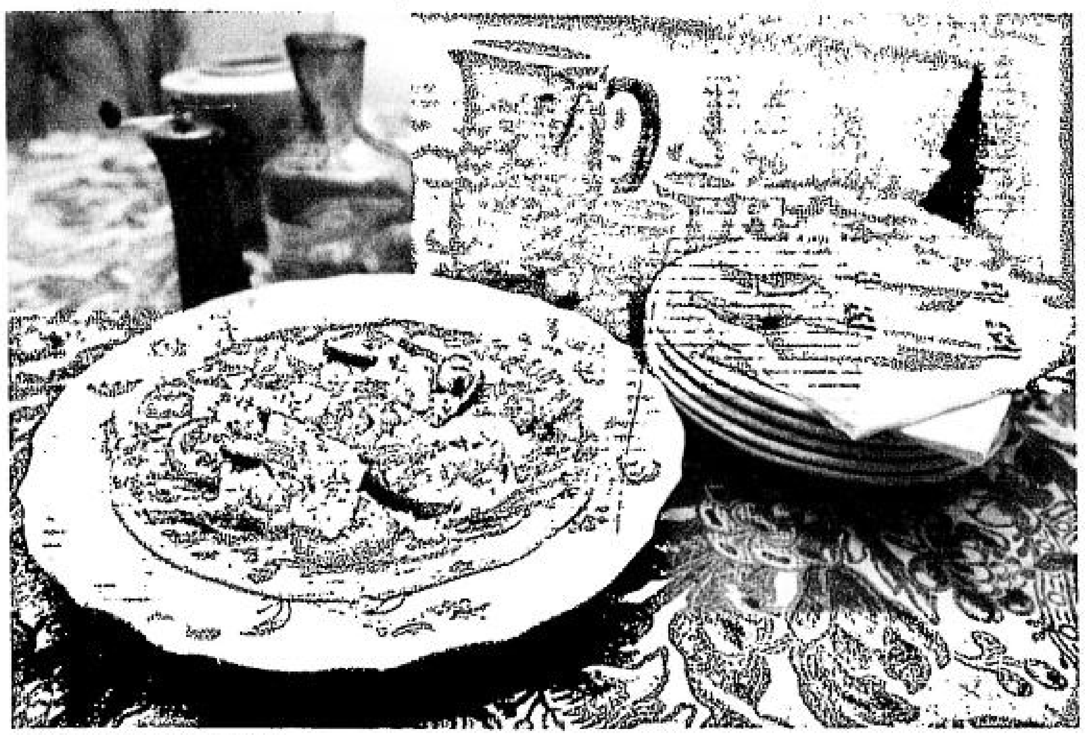

GRILLED seafood pizza

SPAGHETTI Bolognese

It's a family affair

Near faithful interpretations of originals at half or a third of their prices are served at this homey restaurant

BY ALEX Y. VERGARA
PHOTOS BY JOHNNY VILLENA

THE FAMILY that eats together, cooks together. The search for good food has led interior designer Davelyn Camaclang and her architect-husband, Miguel, to venture into the restaurant business themselves. But unlike some of the fancy places they used to frequent, Davelyn's resto serves "shadow" versions of well-loved Continental staples such as *callos* with foccacia bread, *paella*, beef *salpicao* and chicken *tostada* amid a homey ambiance. Too homey, in fact.

"I even coax them to finish their vegetables," she says with a chuckle.

The family affair, called Fat Michael's Place (1154-A Lacuña St. corner Rodriguez Ave., Bangkal, Makati; tel. 844-2638), has been attracting a mixed bag of pen pushers, corporate types, even ramp models (thanks to Davelyn's brother Jude Mangcuyas, a part-time fashion stylist) since it opened early this year.

The Camaclangs, however, seem to derive more pleasure out of sharing their culinary skills with neighbors and virtual strangers. "One time a couple arrived here dressed to the nines," says Davelyn. "They were obviously on a date. I kept wondering why they came here of all places. I felt so embarrassed since the place was too small and there I was looking so harassed while taking their orders."

The restaurant, which can surprisingly squeeze in 20 people, is open every day for lunch, *merienda* and dinner. Several tables have been placed outside for those in the mood for al fresco dining. Davelyn's knack for putting eclectic furniture and accent pieces together is very much evident. She calls the look "shabby chic," a curio-shop and European café rolled into one, but that's getting ahead of the story.

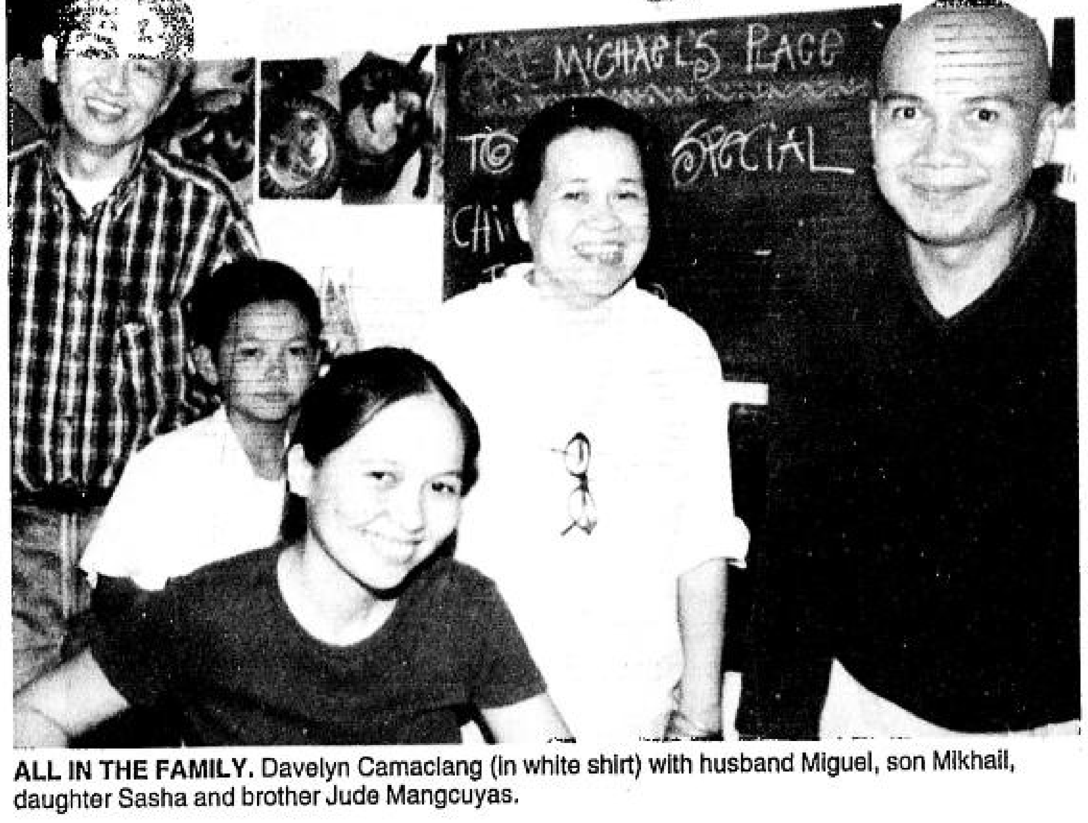
Shadow dishes, she says, are near faithful interpretations of originals at half or even a third of their prices. "We're able to keep our prices down since we don't have to pay a franchise holder. Our overhead is lower because we do all the work ourselves." Yes, including marketing, mixing the sauces and washing the dishes.

Pasta dishes range from P60-P95 a pop. Bolognese (P60) or classic spaghetti in tomato-based meat sauce has remained the neighborhood favorite, but tomato-based scampi pasta (P95), sprinkled generously with shrimps, squid meat and Parmesan cheese, is fast gaining a following. Of course, there's the cholesterol-rich *aligui* pasta at P85. Grilled and tender chicken rosemary with rice and vegetable siding costs P78, while the hearty *paella*, good enough for two, can set diners back by P185.

"The only things we don't do here are the cakes," says Davelyn. "A supplier provides these items for us. But give us a bigger kitchen and we probably will."

Davelyn also whips up a daily special that, more often than not, soon becomes part of the menu. Regulars, for instance, kept on asking for the chicken *tostadas* after it had been taken off the menu. Since what the customer wants, the customer gets, back came the dish of grilled

IT'S A FAMILY/ p.D3



ALL IN THE FAMILY. Davelyn Camaclang (in white shirt) with husband Miguel, son Mikhail, daughter Sasha and brother Jude Mangcuyas.